

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association
Meeting date: October 30, 2014

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on October 30, 2014. The meeting convened at 11:35am, President Marc Schroeder.

Members Present:

Shiraz Kurji
Karen Manarin
April McGrath
Brenda Lang
Richard Sutherland

Elaine Mullen
Tracy Powell
Marc Schroeder
Andreas Tomaszewski
Members not present:
Scott Murray

Agenda

New Business 1: Added - the Academic Year Committee
New Business 2: Added - Appointment to the Sabbatical Leave Committee
Officer's Reports: Meeting with member added to Brenda's Report
Approved

Minutes

Motion was made by Marc Schroeder to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2014 meeting.
Motion Carried

In Camera Session, Grievance Reports

Officers' Reports

President's Report

1. Nov 14 Presidents' Discussion Series
The topic for this session is University Autonomy.
2. ACIFA Presidents' Council Report
Marc attended ACIFA Presidents Council October 17-18.
3. CAUT Western Regional Conference
Marc attended the CAUT Western Regional Conference on October 23 – 25. Sessions and reports highlighted key issues that Faculty Associations should be aware of.
4. Meetings with By-election Candidates
Marc and Baset met with Gordon Dirks, Jim Fletcher and Greg Clark to inform them of post-secondary issues in Alberta and the MRU context. They will be meeting again with Gordon Dirks since he has been elected, and Eric Queenan will be invited to this meeting. We are going to try to meet with the Calgary caucuses as well.
5. Tenure and Promotion Review Update.
The input received by the steering committee in its consultation indicated that the institutional criteria did not need to be revised: applicable groups should be working on more pressing issues that were identified in the review process. We, also, do not need to consider post tenure evaluation at this time. If this is to be done, it should be done next year and it needs to be done through GFC.
6. GSA Contract Issue
The contract given to a non faculty member to do faculty work has been cancelled: it has been converted into a sessional contract.
7. Motions at the General Meeting
Advocacy Goals will be brought forward for approval.
The child care motion is being deferred.

Motion THAT the Executive Board recommend to the membership that we raise the total amount available in the Compassionate fund for this year to \$15,000.

Moved: Karen Manarin

Seconded: Richard Sutherland

Vote

Carried

Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board recommend to the membership that the MRFA purchase a faculty centre computer.

Moved: Brenda Lang

Seconded: Tracy Powell

Vote

Carried

Vice President Negotiations Report

1. Seminar on Changes to the Collective Agreement

The PSGC has scheduled a seminar to review changes made to tenure and promotion on November 20, 12:30 – 2:00. Jenn and Karen will be presenting.

2. Meeting with Bill Johnson and Update on Arbitration

Motion THAT the MRFA President submit notification to the Board stating our decision to go to arbitration and our preference for a one person arbitration panel.

Moved: Karen Manarin

Seconded: Andreas Tomaszewski

Vote

Carried Unanimously

Contract Member Representative Report

1. OCUFA Conference

The key points were that casualization, increased managerialism, and membership fragmentation are issues that all faculty associations need to address.

The MRFA will consider having a conversation with members about solidarity.

2. Contract Faculty Survey Results

Brenda will report on the survey results at the General Meeting on October 31.

3. Meeting with Member

Brenda will speak to Scott about this

Member at Large Report

1. MRU Brand Orientation

The only way a brand has meaning is if it emerges organically out of what we do. “Face-to-Face” as a concept is okay but the brand needs to reflect what we actually do: they cannot trumpet small class sizes while they are ‘knocking down walls.’ If this is important to the university, money should be spent on what it claims to value.

Business Arising

1. Ad Hoc Committee on Long Term Bargaining Priorities

Deferred

New Business

1. Appointments to Joint Committees in the Collective Agreement

Motion THAT the MRFA appoint Jenn Pettit to the joint committee for the Description of Chairs, Assistant Deans and Research Institute Directors, and Tracy Powell to the joint committee on Reassigned Time.

Moved: Shiraz Kurji

Seconded: Brenda Lang

Vote

Carried

2. Appointment to Sabbatical Leave committee
Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board appoint Sonya Flessati to the Sabbatical Leave Committee.
Discussion
Moved: Brenda Lang
Seconded: Andreas Tomaszewski
Vote
Carried
3. ACIFA Climate Survey 2014-2015 – Individual Association Questions
The Executive reviews these responses every year. They inform some of our work and they are passed on to senior administration. If concerns were evident from the responses we would address them.
The same questions will be used this year as were used in 2013-2014.
4. Composition of the Negotiating Committee
Deferred
5. Social Member Emeritus Bylaws
Referred to bylaws committee. Marc will inform Manuel that we will be reconsidering this category of membership.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval