

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: September 1, 2015

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on September 1, 2015. The meeting convened at 12:00pm, President, Marc Schroeder, presiding

Members Present:

Marc Schroeder
Brenda Lang
Tracy Powell

Brady Killough
Jarett Henderson
Richard Sutherland
Shiraz Kurji

Sabrina Reed
David Clemis
Allison MacKenzie

Agenda

Approved

Minutes

Motion was made by Marc Schroeder to approve the minutes of the August 21 and August 27, 2015 meetings. Motion Carried

Business Arising

1. Appointments

a. Ad hoc Hiring Committee

Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board appoint Melanie Peacock to the ad hoc Hiring Committee.

Moved: Allison MacKenzie

Seconded: Brady Killough

Vote

Carried Unanimously

b. Advocacy Committee

Deferred

2. Retirement Gift for Darlene

Motion THAT the MRFA adopt a policy of giving \$125 per five year period, capped at \$500, for MRFA Staff retirement gifts.

Moved: Brenda Lang

Seconded: Shiraz Kurji

Discussion

Motion to amend: Motion THAT the MRFA adopt a policy of giving \$125 per five year period, capped at \$500, for MRFA Staff retirement gifts. And, THAT, in this unique case, the MRFA approve \$750 as a retirement gift.

Moved: Allison MacKenzie

Seconded: Shiraz Kurji

Discussion

Vote on main motion, with amendment included

Carried Unanimously

New Business

1. Professional Development Committee Budget Update

The PDC is over budget due to increased retreat costs and a reduced budget. In 2016, the PDC will increase registration fees and promote use of PD funds to reimburse members' registration fees. There will still be an increased subsidy for Contract faculty but it will be less than it was in 2015.

2. Scholarship for Dependents Form Approval

The form now has a section where the student may authorize the Association to inform a member if their dependent received or did not receive a scholarship.

Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board approve the revisions to the Scholarships for Dependents form with the inclusion of a statement that “Providing authorization does not affect eligibility for the scholarship”

Moved: Richard Sutherland

Seconded: Brady Killough

Vote

Carried Unanimously

3. Changes to MRFA Student Scholarships Resulting from Reorganization

Motion THAT the MRFA Executive maintain the number of scholarships it provides and the value of those scholarships, and decouple them from Faculties.

Moved: Allison MacKenzie

Seconded: Brenda Lang

Discussion:

Vote

Carried Unanimously

4. Timing of eSEIs

Requiring that SEIs be done after the withdrawal date can negatively impact contract faculty and other faculty members who teach block week courses. Sabrina and Marc will discuss this with Kathy and Ariane.

In Camera Session

Vice President Policy and Senior Grievance Officer's Report

President's Report

Officer's Reports

President's Report

1. Reminder: provide input on new MRU Code of Conduct
Executive Board members are to send their input to Marc.
2. Attendance at Workplace Bullying and Incivility Conference
The conference was informative and useful.
3. GFC Committee and Chair Vacancies
Marc and Allison will discuss this.
4. Upcoming Events
Attendance at upcoming University events was discussed.

Order of the Day, 1:00pm

Meeting with SAMRU Exec

Zoe Slusar, VP Student Life

David Cloutier, VP Academic

Madina Kanayeva, VP External

1. Increasing Class Sizes
This is a mutual concern and we will consider how best to address this moving forward. Small class size is one of the key things that sets us apart from other Universities. To maintain it, we need a clear articulation of why small class size is valuable. We also need to try to reverse the recent class size increases. Class sizes increased because of the budget cut but the cut was reversed. Class sizes should, therefore, revert to previous levels.
2. eSEIs
There is a task force which is considering matters related to the implementation of eSEIs. However, the task force was created outside of GFC, and this work should be done by the Teaching and Learning Standing Committee of GFC.

3. **Communications with the Ministry**
Students could consider reminding the government that they should consult with Faculty Associations. We have common interests and Faculty have a better view of the situation due to the fact that they are in the sector for a longer period of time than students.
4. **Full Time and Contract Ratios**
High contract to full time ratios negatively impacts students in many ways. Contract faculty are not as accessible for students and full time faculty do not have sufficient time for curriculum review, office hours, advising, and Honours supervision.
5. **Class Scheduling**
Processes are in place in working towards yearlong registration which will be beneficial for students. However, improvements need to be made to the advising process at MRU: there is a lot of inefficiency in the current system and often students do not get useful information from advisors.
6. **MRU Coalition**
Monthly meetings will be scheduled soon.
7. **Provincial affiliations**
Institutional interests have been confused with associations' interests. There are common interests regardless of the type of institution and there should be common provincial advocacy groups.
8. **Takeaways**
The MRFA will get the Coalition scheduled once all representatives have been appointed. SAMRU will speak with David Docherty about class sizes and faculty ratios, and will also consider suggesting to the government that they meet with faculty.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval