

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association
Meeting date: September 18, 2014

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on September 18, 2014. The meeting convened at 11:30am, President Marc Schroeder.

Members Present

Scott Murray
Marc Schroeder
Andreas Tomaszewski
Elaine Mullen
Tracy Powell
Karen Manarin

Brenda Lang
Shiraz Kurji
April McGrath
Richard Sutherland

Guests, 11:30 – 12:30

Kathy Shailer
Randy Genreux

Agenda

Added VP Policy Report in Officer's Reports

Order of the Day, 11:30

Guests: Kathy Shailer, Provost and VP Academic
Randy Genreux, Associate VP Academic

1. GFC
 - a. Changes to the Curriculum Approval Process
The changes, if approved by GFC, will make Faculty Councils and curriculum committees responsible for thorough proposal development, cross impact consultations, course changes, and new courses. The changes will also move into GFC things that had been previously decided outside of GFC (i.e. considering financial implications of programs).
 - b. Teaching and Learning Standing Committee
This is a new committee which will be a parallel committee to RSAC. It will receive information and recommendations from the Tenure and Promotion Review Steering Committee and the UTPC subcommittee.
2. Area Updates
 - a. Research Services
The interim position is for one year. There will be a position posting in January.
 - b. Registrar's Office
The Registrar position will be filled by January.
3. Committee Updates
 - a. Women's Caucus, plans or progress
All women on campus will be invited to attend. This is not a decision making body nor is it a special interest group: it is a place for women to have a voice. Notes from women's caucus will go to the Respectful Workplace Steering Committee.
 - b. Status on the Task Force on Civility / Respectful Workplace Steering Committee
Once the policy review process currently underway is complete, this committee will look at strategies, awareness and training on ideas around a respectful learning and workplace. This is particularly important regarding academic debate. There is a need to raise awareness on these matters and raise awareness of the policies that are in place.
 - c. Code of Conduct Committee
The Government of Alberta requires us to have a code of conduct. Amy Nixen is working on this with a committee right now and plans for it to be a parent policy that other related policies would fall under.
4. Associate/Assistant Deans
There should be one title for these positions though the responsibilities may be different.

5. Academic Course Scheduling
The mandate for the Academic Scheduling Committee will be revised. When scheduling courses we need to start with enrollment projections, then plan the courses to be offered and how to rotate them, then assign courses.
6. Proposed Market Supplement Policy
Kathy and Randy will discuss concerns with Marc and Scott.
7. Review of the Honours Programs
There is a subcommittee of Deans' Council looking at this in response to the different issues that have come up. The goal is to provide more clarity and possibly continuity across departments.

Minutes

Motion was made by Marc Schroeder to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2014 meeting. **Motion Carried**

In Camera Session

Vice-President, Policy and Grievance Officer's Report

Officer's Reports

President's Report

1. Job Action During Mediation
Job Action would be counterproductive in mediation.
2. Meeting with Jim Campbell, Director of Development in University Advancement
Jim is aware of the faculty perspective regarding university collaborations and has read the CAUT report on it. Members are invited to contact Jim if they have concerns about agreements being negotiated at MRU.
3. CAUT Application
Marc reviewed the CAUT bylaws and will be meeting with David Hyttenrauch next week to discuss this further.
4. Food for Thought
While the event was not well attended, there were some good points and concerns raised by our members which we will follow-up on. Future events of this kind will be structured differently or held less often to improve attendance.
5. Tenure and Promotion Review Steering Committee
Once negotiations are done, the Tenure and Promotion Review Steering Committee will be sending recommendations to APTC, UTPC and the Teaching and Learning Standing Committee.
6. eSEI report
This is going to GFC as an information item. The only action is to expand and extend the pilot. All courses for all tenured members will be part of the pilot.

Vice-president Policy and Grievance Officer's Report

The University is developing an e-cigarette policy. Due to lack of other spaces, use of e-cigarettes will be restricted to smoking areas.

The Code of Conduct policy is in fact mandated by the government for all government agencies. However, the government's requirements are already met in our current policies. We need to fight behavioural standards, which are common in codes of conduct, from being implemented at MRU.

Unfinished Business

1. Appointment to the Review and Interpretation of the CA Committee
Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board appoint Rafik Kurji to the Review and Interpretation of the Collective Agreement Committee
Moved: Andreas Tomaszewki
Seconded: Elaine Mullen
Vote
Carried, 1 abstention

New Business

1. CAUT Western Regional: Reception & Dinner Oct 23-24 at 7:00pm
Marc is going to the CAUT Western Regional. Scott is going to attend the reception with Marc and April will attend the dinner.
2. Contract Faculty Representative Election Update
Update on nominees

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

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval