

MINUTES of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: September 26, 2012

Call to order: A General Meeting of the MRFA was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on September 26, 2012. The meeting convened at 4:10pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Communications Officer.

Members in attendance:

See attached Attendance Sheets

Agenda

Added to President's Report: SEIs for Distance Delivery Programs
Office Hours and Presence on Campus

Officer's Reports

President's Report

1. Recognizing Debra Jensen and Richard Collier
 - Debra was responsible for establishing a Humanities scholarship and the department has renamed it to the Debra Jensen Memorial Scholarship in Humanities. The MRFA will be donating \$1,500 to this scholarship fund in memory of Debra Jensen who passed away in the summer.
 - Richard Collier, the President of the MRFA in 1975-1977, also passed away over the summer. His wife, Mardy Roberts, is still a member of the Association; so, the MRFA will be making a \$1,500 donation to either the MRFA Memorial Bursary or to an English Department scholarship in memory of Richard Collier.
2. Reduction in Instructional Hours
 - This is the plan that the MRFA chose to implement to enable faculty to resist pressures to reduce hours of instruction in courses. The MRFA is going to cost out the savings generated from such cuts and will express savings as a percentage of expenses related that to the amount of damage being done to the quality of instruction. Departments and Department Communicators have been asked to work on developing impact statements which must be submitted to the MRFA by the end of October.
 - Hours of instruction is a matter for GFC. To change the hours of instruction a course submission must be made. The originator of the submission can chose to make it an editorial change, in which case it just goes to the registrar, or to make it a major change, in which case it goes to APPC and GFC for approval. Though people have stated otherwise, the Board agrees that this is a GFC matter.
3. MRFA Executive Department Visits
 - These visits are intended to encourage departments to be more actively involved in the Association and to provide the opportunity for members to ask questions and to raise issues. We will compile a list of concerns which the MRFA will work on, refer to the negotiating committee and/or forward to the administration.
4. CAUT Policies
 - These policies will be posted on the website and we will discuss them at a future meeting
5. SEIs for Distance Delivery Programs
 - UTPC is working on a full scale review of the evaluation of teaching. This will include a review of the evaluation of distance delivery courses, SEI forms and all other aspects of teaching evaluation. UTPC's work will be based on the work Jim Zimmer and Theresa Matus have done on distance delivery evaluations and on the FEC recommendations submitted last year.
 - Members having problems because of low response rates or other issues with SEIs should contact Gerry.

6. Office Hours and Presence on Campus

- There is no article in the Collective Agreement requiring office hours. Departments have the authority to set policies and are expected to set reasonable policies. Expecting faculty to be in their offices, or even at MRU, from 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. is not a reasonable policy.

Treasurer's Report

1. Audited Financial Statements

- These are the financial statements for the eleven month fiscal period ending on March 31, 2012 which were approved by the MRFA Executive. The statements are available on the password protected part of the website (mrfa.net).
 - Review of Auditor's Report, fund balances, statement of financial position, and expenses.
 - No questions or discussion
- Financial Statements submitted for information

Committee Reports

1. Negotiations Committee, Melanie Peacock

- The Negotiating Teams will be in mediation on October 29 – 31. (see article 21.4 of the collective agreement for more information on the process)
- The team thanks you for your ongoing patience and support

2. Advocacy Committee, Roberta Lexier

- This is a new standing committee that was created at the last AGM to “develop strategies for influencing public policy on post-secondary education, social justice issues, and other areas in which the MRFA policy on political activity authorizes the Association to express non-partisan political views”
- The committee is currently working on student debt and financing higher education.

New Business

1. Qualifications for the new Provost and VP Academic

- Committee Composition:
 - Gerry will recommend to David that the Chair on the selection committee be selected by the Chairs' Assembly.
- Discussion of Qualifications
 - Members are invited to submit input to Gerry.

2. September Election

a) Results

- Part-time Member Representative: Brenda Lang
- PD Committee results: Joe Pavelka and Enrique Lopez

b) Motion to destroy the ballots

Moved: Martin Haworth
Seconded: Doug Rathburn
Vote
Carried

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:27pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 30, 4:00 – 6:00pm.

Kit Dobson,
Communications Officer

Date of Approval