

MINUTES of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: September 23, 2011

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on September 23, 2011. The meeting convened at 3:00pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Secretary.

Members in attendance:

Gerry Cross
David Sabiston
Qasim Syed
Kit Dobson

Rafik Kurji
Cliff Werier
Elaine Mullen
Pat Kostouros
Gerard Lucyshyn

Order of the Day, Guest, Duane Anderson, Director of Finance, Planning, and Risk Services

Discussion

- The goal of Duane Anderson's attendance is to better understand the financial situation of the institution as we prepare for bargaining.
- MRU's Comprehensive Institutional Plan was tightened when the province froze grants 2 years ago
- For this year we forecast a balanced budget; for 2012-13 and 2013-14 we anticipate a deficit situation without an increase in our grant from the province
- Enrollment patterns, in particular, were tightened, and we will have fewer FLEs going forward, assuming no new funding
- Current budget assumptions include a 4% cost of living adjustment to salaries in 2012-13 and a 2% cost of living adjustment in 2013-14
- We therefore want the government to note that we will need a minimum 4% grant increase in 2012-13 to remain in a balanced budget situation. The province needs to reinvest in PSE
 - o We can adjust some aspects of funding internally (slight tuition increases, consolidating student tuition rates), but these will not solve the issue
 - o We are in an uncertain period, with the premier changing
- Some things, however, have gone well: our midwifery program is fully funded, and the B.Ed. funds came through a reallocation.
 - o Additionally, federal stimulus and other funds have helped to get construction of the conservatory underway
- For the upcoming round of negotiations, administration expects cost of living adjustments to be the biggest financial issue
 - o The Director of Finance will be advising the Assistant Vice-President Academic on financial matters, though will not attend negotiations.

President's Report

1. Grievance Report (closed)
2. Meeting with TPC Chairs and Deans Regarding Promotion
 - o Gerry will have this meeting next week. It is designed to ensure compliance on the CA with respect to promotions.
3. UWO Librarians and Archivists Strike
 - o We sent our support to the union, as endorsed by the Executive, and asked if they were seeking donations
 - o The latest word is that they now have a tentative 4-year agreement, pending ratification.

4. Joint Committee Appointments
 - o We are looking for two members from ADC and 2 members from Counseling for different committees. Reminders will be sent.

Unfinished Business: Academic Scheduling Interim Report

- Qasim will chair Monday's General Meeting, which will deal in large part with this report.
- It will be key to let people know, procedurally, the status of this report and the accompanying grievance.
- It will be equally key to let people know how the MRFA is effecting change to the scheduling policy through the CA.
- It will also be important to compare how scheduling used to happen to how it happens now. The software combines two previously separate functions: scheduling classes and assigning classes to faculty.
- The constraints system did not previously exist, yet still yielded regular schedules for faculty.
 - o Nevertheless, the constraints can and should be used by our members within their rights.
- In lieu of individual departments doing all of the data input into this system, which has generated some problems, it might be desirable to have data entry specialists or to work with the OIAP.
- Gerry suggested that he attend an upcoming conference in Quebec on the INFOSILEM software so that we be even better equipped to deal with this issue.
 - o Agreed, subject to cost.

New Business

1. MRFA Representative to the Dean of Arts Selection Committee
 - o It was agreed that Gerry will be our representative.
2. Visit by Representatives from Another University
 - o Thompson Rivers University may not suit us.
 - They have two different systems of rank, different philosophy about grievances
 - Kit will talk to Emily Hutchison, a new faculty member recently hired from TRU
 - o Kit is in contact with Brock's faculty association, and will talk with them.
 - Only initial reservation is that they have been developing more graduate programs
 - o Gerry spoke with people about UWinnipeg, where faculty and administration are currently not getting on well.
 - Agreed to strike them from our list.
 - o We are waiting to hear back from Trent and Ryerson
3. Time Capsule and Centennial Events (att.)
 - o The Association will be given a shoebox-sized box to fill. Needs to be ready in November. Suggestions welcome.
4. Sub-Committee on MRFA Organization and Governance
 - o This committee will entail a rethink of our committees, the executive, and our affiliations.
 - o Gerry, Cliff, Pat, and Kit will comprise the committee
5. Ad-hoc Committee on Workload Implications of Transition

- This committee is being created to examine issues like supervisions of students, lab instructions, adjustments in teaching hours, and so on, in consultation with the membership.
6. Conference Phone
- Apparently the negotiating committee previously requested that we purchase such a phone.
 - It was suggested that we instead use MRU services, planning 24 hours in advance, which allows us to have a conference phone for free.
 - Agreed.
7. September 30 Social Event
- This will be the first social of the year, co-sponsored by the SEC and PAC. The goal is to get new members to attend. There will be a door prize for bringing a new faculty member.
8. Digital Picture Frame
- This suggestion comes from Elaine, that we might have a digital picture frame to display photos of events and members in the faculty centre.
 - Referred to the Management Committee.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Secretary
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval