

MINUTES of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: September 9, 2011

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on September 9, 2011. The meeting convened at 3:00pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Secretary.

Members in attendance:

Gerry Cross
David Sabiston
Qasim Syed
Elaine Mullen

Pat Kostouros
Rafik Kurji
Gerard Lucyshyn
Cliff Werier
Kit Dobson

Approval of minutes: Motion was made by Gerry Cross, and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2011 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by Gerry Cross, and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2011 meeting. **Motion carried with amendment.**

Motion was made by Gerry Cross, and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2011 meeting. **Motion carried with amendment.**

Officers' reports:

President

Executive Board Minutes/Notes

- For supporting documentation and for reference purposes we should maintain our practice with the notes as transcripts.
- We will no longer distribute closed sections to the executive. Chantelle will maintain the minutes of closed sections.

Grievance Report

Closed Session

Committee Reports

Grievance Sub-Committee Report

- Gerry will draft a PowerPoint to be edited / approved by the members of the subcommittee. This will, then, be sent to the Executive as a Report.

New Business:

1. David Docherty's suggestion for a visit by an association and an administrative representative from another university
 - He suggested identifying another university, where there is a good relationship between the administration and the association and one that has gone through a transition as we have, and bring one representative from the administration and the association to meet with us.
 - Provisional short list of Universities
 - Brock
 - Trent
 - Ryerson
 - Thompson Rivers
 - University of Winnipeg
 - Gerry will get more information on these Universities, their Agreements and internal relations. From this information the Executive is to shorten the list and/or make a decision.
2. Preparation for David Docherty's visit
 - Cliff will speak about negotiations, the amount of change we have had over the last few years, what we do not want to lose, and issues regarding promotion to professor
 - Gerry and Rafik will speak to the program mix

- Elaine will speak to MRU values and the faculty roles and responsibilities.
 - Gerry will speak to how the MRFA as a body has had an impact on academic matters and has had to adapt since the opening of the PSLA
 - Elaine will speak first, then Cliff, then Gerry.
 - Gerry will give him a revised version of this list at a later date.
 - We will aim to do this all in 15-20 minutes
3. Support for University of Western Ontario Librarians and Archivists Strike
 Motion THAT Gerry writes a brief letter of support to them and ask if they are looking for donations to their strike fund
 Moved: Pat Kostouros
 Seconded: Kit Dobson
 Discussion
 Vote
 Carried Unanimously
4. General Meeting Agenda Items
- Items under president's report to be moved below social memberships
 - Add Negotiations Report
5. VP academic qualifications
- These qualifications were developed by Rafik and Gerry, and, once finalized, they will go out to the membership with the general meeting agenda.
 - "manage growth" to be changed to "institutional growth"
 - Add: demonstrates and communicates an understanding of and respect for academic culture, academic collective bargaining and academic governance.
5. Executive Board Goals 2011-2012
- Association Organization brief and political advocacy section from the Policies and Procedures Manual will be made available with the goals.
6. Academic Scheduling Interim Report
- The report is going to the chairs committee and we will have a chance to discuss it on the 23rd

Order of the Day

Visit by David Docherty

- History and values of Mount Royal and the MRFA
 - MRU is, and has always been, teaching focused with strong community involvement. It has often been considered a second-chance institution providing integral assistance and transitions for members of the community.
 - Negotiations have significantly improved over the years with the introduction and use of interest-focused bargaining.
 - Faculty used to have more influence in academic matters than they have with GFC.
 - GFC is too big to be a decision-making body
 - There is a diffusion of responsibility at GFC
 - GFC members do not have the resources or the time to stay fully informed
 - GFC cannot really take action. (e.g. the scheduling policy went through GFC and they could not get traction on the issues but the MRFA could)
 - As an Association we are trying to make GFC work better through our Professional Affairs Committee and the Academic Liaison Committee
 - Having faculty caucuses would lead to significant improvements
 - Gerry and David will discuss this further

- Changes David considers important for MRU
 - We need to move to the university side of provincial legislation
 - The library needs to be improved
 - Review/revision of the academic year and leaves is very important.
 - Improving amount of external funding received (e.g. SSHRC)
- Program mix at MRU.
 - We have heard across the University that this is a community school so we will likely always have many non-credit programs.
 - Within the credit programs, the mix of applied and liberal arts programs is not an issue. When we look at possibilities for new growth we can strategically grow certain areas: we should look primarily at funding and ensuring quality programs.
- The following are important in being a good University
 - Class size
 - Instructors
 - Well-rounded programs
- Consideration of our reliance on Part-time faculty and how to improve circumstances.
 - Under the present circumstances it is how we manage class sizes and this is something worth looking at but 50% is not ideal.
 - In applied programs it is beneficial to have Part-time members because they are professionals in the discipline/area. In other areas, having specifically qualified individuals as Part-time faculty in the short term can be very beneficial also. However, having many Part-time faculty who really should be full-time faculty is another thing that needs to be addressed.

David expressed his appreciation for the offer to have him up to the Faculty Centre and for the social membership. He is grateful for having been made to feel welcome in this great facility, and looks forward to future meetings with the MRFA Executive Board.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

 Secretary
 Mount Royal Faculty Association

 Date of approval