



**November General Meeting**  
**Monday, November 27, 2006**  
**3:00-5:00**  
**E 133**

**MINUTES**

**Guests:** Marc Chikinda, Acting Dean, Centre for Communications; John Blomme, VP Academic, SAMRC.

1. Agenda Approved with the following amendments: # 4. Treasurer's Report becomes # 5. and # 5. Faculty Centre Renovations becomes #4.

**S. Murray/ D. Rathbun**

2. September 26, 2006 General Meeting minutes.

**Approved**

3. Report from Credit Accounting Committee

In Attendance: Terry Field, Kori Street, Marc Chikinda, John Blomme

- Adhoc committee formed in 2005 to examine credit accounting system. Consulted with faculty twice in academic year. Used Guelph University as basic working model with modifications ie. difference in definition of credit. MRC would move to 3 credit courses (or multiples of 3) to stay in line with other Alberta institutions.
- Academic Council approved ,in principle, model recommended by the ad hoc committee in April 2006. Definition of credit: student workload versus contact hours.
- Faculty consulted in April & May 2006. Concerned that student workload would be linked to definition of credit. The responses were as varied as the different college faculties, some supported and some opposed. 10 to 12 hours of student workload was viewed as too much by some departments and too low by others. Some wonder why we are going through this exercise and others see the current system as problematic, it seems dependent on the discipline.
- David Hyttenrauch met with Robin F., Dave M. & Kori S. MRFA asking for verbal assurance that instructor workload will not be impacted by 3 credit weighted courses.
- Kori S. suggested that perhaps a letter of understanding acknowledging that workload & pedagogy would not be impacted.
- Cliff W. would like to see more reference to collective agreement. Lee E. feels that wording is needed to strengthen the language in the collective agreement.

- Scott M. questioned whether there are other ways of restructuring. Terry F. responded that 3 credit basis is the standard depending on content & defined by student workload. Per Karen M. - students are concerned with transferability of course, not credit.
- Some departments are motivated by becoming a University and do not find the task onerous. Keeping status quo raises problems for transferability. On the other hand all faculties do not fit into the 3 credit profile.

Meeting suspended while Guests: Marc Chikinda & John Blomme left the meeting.

#### 4. Faculty Centre Renovations

##### 4.1 Renovations Plan - Miriam Carey

- Miriam Carey thanked Jacqui McFarland for the extraordinary work she has done and continues to do with the Centre renovations. Also thanked Jacque McLeod, Architectural Technologist, Paula Dozois, Interior Design and Rod Corbett, ADC for their invaluable contributions in bringing the various aspects of the renovations to this point.
- Spoke on the web presentation, on-line survey and the Open House at the Faculty Centre in November. Of course there are varied opinions on what the centre should be. Some are looking for a quiet space where they can mark exams or read. Others think it should be more of a social centre.
- There is no possibility that the association will be moving to a new space any time soon. We may be included in the long term (10-15 year) college plan. In the interim renovating the space we have now might increase the utilization.

##### **EXECUTIVE MOTION:**

That the MRFA proceed with renovations to the Faculty Centre, conditional on approval of a renovations budget plan to be presented at a future Extraordinary Meeting.

**Approved Unanimously**

#### 5. Treasurer's Report - Mardy Roberts

- Presented financial statement as of October 31, 2006. Previewed some of the bylaw changes and levy figures that will be presented at Extraordinary Meeting.

**Report approved**

#### 6. President's Report

##### 6.1 Relations with ACIFA, CAFA and CAUT

- MRFA invited to CAUT membership meeting November 2005. CAFA members sent letters to CAUT speaking against MRFA being admitted as members. David H. not allowed to speak in order to address many of the erroneous statements.

- CAUT tabled MRFA membership application until bylaws could be reviewed. It is apparent that internal differences need to be sorted out.
- David H. consulted with MRFA lawyer and then sent letter to CAFA members requesting a retraction of erroneous & defamatory statements, no reply has been received to date. CAFA is worried about a lawsuit so will not attend ACIFA meetings if MRFA is present. CAFA brought a motion to CAUT saying that their right to free speech had been infringed upon.
- New ACIFA President, Dave Purkis, offered to mediate. In October 2006 a response was sent by David H. to the President of CAUT. After some passage of time Dave Purkis got in touch with David H. and basically said that it was highly unlikely that CAFA would retract or apologize their statements.
- NASA sent an email to Dave Purkis & ACIFA members in early November requesting resolution be sought. CAFA's presence at the ACIFA meetings has been missed as they bring insights and information that are useful to the ACIFA members.
- David H. reported that there may be budgetary issues arising if ACIFA is accepted into CAUT. Also possible that FTE cap may be raised.
- Will revisit ACIFA issues at March meeting.

**Member Responses:**

- ACIFA should take a strong stance in our favour as the MRFA is a dues paying member while CAFA is a guest at the meetings.
- Why does a non-paying member seem to take priority.

**MOTION:**

That the MRFA continue to hold to its current position with CAFA.

**APPROVED**

**6.2 Contract Matters**

**6.3 Transition Update**

**6.4 Faculty Roles and Responsibilities**

**6.5 Executive Response to the Ralph Klein Chair announcement**

- Executive is opposed to both the lack of process and MRC's choice of first endowed chair. Letter from the MRFA executive, rather than membership, sent to BOG Chair with copies to Board members.
- Members expressed their views and cited examples of negative comments made by Ralph Klein about various groups.
- Membership support for Bruce Ravelli, BOG rep was reflected.

**6.6 Degree Accreditation in Canada conference**

**6.7 Library**

**7. Executive Reports/Questions**

**8. Other Business**

**9. Adjournment**