



**Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association**  
**Meeting date: June 5, 2018**

**Call to order:** An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on June 5, 2018. The meeting convened at 9:30am, President, Marc Schroeder, presiding.

**Members Present:**

David Clemis  
Jennifer Solinas  
Sabrina Reed  
Brenda Lang  
Lee Easton  
Marc Schroeder  
Shiraz Kurji

Guy Obrecht (at 10:30)

**Guests:**

Melanie Peacock  
Brady Killough  
Rafik Kurji

**Absent with Regrets:**

Allison Mackenzie  
Michael Truscello

**Order of the Day: 10:30am**

1. Report: Benefits Committee (Guy Obrecht, Rafik Kurji)  
MRU is in the process of renewing its group benefits plan and we can anticipate significant premium increases whether MRU stays with Sunlife or switches to a new carrier. In the fall, the Executive Board will consider communications with members explaining coverage and premiums, and will also consider representational issues on the Benefits Committee. Moving forward, article 16.9 of the Collective Agreement should be expanded to clarify the composition and scope of the committee.
2. Approvals
  - a. Travel and Conference Expense Policy  
The draft amendment to the travel expense policy was provided to the Executive Board in relation to consideration of the COCAL conference. The final policy will be brought back for Executive Board approval on June 12.
  - b. COCAL 2018 Travel and Conference Expenses – Guy Obrecht  
The COCAL conference, being focused on precarious employment in Post-Secondary, is connected to the core mission of the Association. Since the Association is committed to this issue, attendance at this conference is important both to learn from others and to provide information and strategies on how we have been successful in addressing precarity at MRU. Following the conference, Guy will report to the Executive on what was learned and to the Advocacy Committee on information which could be useful in planning Fair Employment Week.  
Motion THAT the Executive Board approve up to \$2,000 to cover travel and conference expenses for Guy Obrecht to attend COCAL 2018.  
Moved: Lee Easton  
Seconded: Brenda Lang  
Discussion  
Vote – Carried, 1 opposed

**Approval of Agenda** – Approved

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Marc Schroeder to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2018 Executive Board meeting. Motion Carried.

**Business Arising**

1. MRFA Representative on AVP HR Search Committee  
Due to scheduling constraints, Melanie is not able to serve on the AVP HR Selection Committee; so, Marc will remain on the committee.

2. Professional Development Expense Claim Form  
Marc compiled and submitted the feedback provided by the Executive Board on the revised PD expense claim form. Input from various stakeholders will be considered and incorporated prior to a meeting at which the manager of payroll will present and explain the changes made. It will be a paper form at first but will be moved to chrome river.
3. Appointments:
  - a. Job Action Preparedness Committee  
Motion THAT the Executive Board appoint Peter Houston, Chris Thomas and Cliff Werier to the Job Action Preparedness Committee.  
Moved: Shiraz Kurji  
Seconded: Brenda Lang  
Vote – Carried Unanimously

### **New Business**

1. Appointments:
  - a. Department Communicators for 2018-2019  
Motion THAT the Executive Board approve the appointment of Department Communicators for 2018-2019 as recommended by the Communications Committee.  
Moved: Brenda Lang  
Seconded: Sabrina Reed  
Vote – Carried Unanimously
2. Approvals:
  - a. Appointments Policy  
The draft policy was reviewed and recommendations were made relating to the structure and incorporation of a diversity statement. The Bylaws and Governance Committee will make revisions and the policy will be considered for approval by the Executive Board on June 12. The Executive Board will have ongoing work updating the appointments table and the Bylaws and Governance Committee will consider a possible bylaw change relating to contract faculty members' eligibility to serve as Assistant Grievance Officers.
  - b. Approval of Executive Board Meeting Schedule for 2018-2019  
Motion THAT the Executive Board approve the schedule of meetings for 2018-2019: meetings may be adjusted as needed.  
Moved: Brenda Lang  
Seconded: Jennifer Solinas  
Vote – Carried Unanimously
  - c. AFL Spring Labour School Travel and Conference Expenses  
The MRFA may send a member of the Negotiating Committee if possible.
  - d. Alberta Labour Law Review Travel and Conference Expenses  
Motion THAT the Executive Board approve travel and conference expenses for Melanie Peacock to attend the Alberta Labour Law Review, November 7-8 in Edmonton.  
Moved: Jennifer Solinas  
Seconded: Sabrina Reed  
Discussion  
· If a professional officer is hired they may be sent to the conference as well.  
Vote – Carried Unanimously
  - e. Professional Development Committee Expense Request



Motion THAT the Executive Board approve expenses, up to \$100.00, for the provision of food for members of the Professional Development Committee who are travelling to Kananaskis for a site visit to plan the 2019 retreat. Expenses will come out of the PDC budget.

Moved: Sabrina Reed

Seconded: Lee Easton

Vote – Carried, 1 opposed

3. AGM Debrief and Review of Draft Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and no changes were made.

The meeting was very well attended due to various factors, including the in camera negotiations report and the election of a new MRFA President. It is important to note that, while the Association may not get quorum at some meetings, when there are pressing issues our members will show up and support the Association.

4. Report: CAUT Forum for New Presidents (Melanie Peacock)

This event was informative and was valuable PD for an incoming President. It, also, provided the opportunity for Melanie to build good connections with other Association Presidents. This MRFA Executive Board has done a great job at advancing this organization and we are well respected within CAUT.

**In Camera Session**

Grievance Report (Vice-President, Policy and Senior Grievance Officer)

1. Decision Item - Deferred

Negotiations Reports (Vice-President, Negotiations)

President's Report

**Officers' Reports**

President's Report

1. Presidential Transition Planning

Melanie and Marc are working together to ensure a smooth transition for 2018-2019.

2. Updates:

a. MRU Budget

The budget has been approved by the Board and it is now being sent to the ministry. All divisions other than University Advancement have been cut. Academic affairs was cut less, as a percentage, than other divisions, but, in absolute dollars, likely faced the largest cut across the university. Very few details have been provided on how the redirected funds are being allocated.

b. MRU AVP HR Search

Marc will continue on the AVP HR Selection Committee which will be meeting over the summer.

c. President and VPs' Meeting with Deans' Council

Sabrina, Lee and Marc attended a meeting with Deans' Council recently which went well: we will try to continue these meetings once per semester, and other meetings with Senior Administrators, to maintain open lines of communication.

Faculty Representative's Board of Governors Report

1. Budget

Clarification is required around who has input on the budget and what stakeholder groups require in terms of consultation; for instance, at the very least, there needs to be input from Deans and Chairs about the impacts of proposed cuts.

2. President Search Committee

The selection committee has been constituted and work will begin in the fall.

3. Relationship Between GFC and the Board



Strengthening relations with GFC is a high priority for the Board which is a positive change and faculty will need to be responsive to this moving forward.

4. Academic Affairs Committee

This committee is being revitalized by the Board which this is a good thing: it will consider the classroom impacts of budget decisions.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm.

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Communications Officer, MRFA

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Date of approval