

**MACEWAN FACULTY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
M I N U T E S**

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2011
Time: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Room 7-104, City Centre Campus
Present: Joe Childs, Shannon Digweed, Bob Graves, Chris Hancock, Ann Little, Valla McLean, Chaldeans Mensah, Richard Pereschitz, Aimee Skye, Jonathan Withey, Jerry Zdril, Karen Zypchyn

I. Approval of Agenda

One item, 3.12 Update, was added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as circulated.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 20, 2011 and November 17, 2011 meeting were approved as circulated.

III. Items for Discussion/Approval

3.1 Request from Member to Distribute Information on Academic Mobbing to Membership

Further to the last meeting, Jerry Zdril reported that he did send the e-mail with this request to the FA Executive Committee. The committee discussed the request.

M/S/C Jonathan Withey/Shannon Digweed

THAT the FA not distribute information re: academic mobbing, as per a specific request from a faculty member, to the membership.

M/S/C Bob Graves/Richard Pereschitz

THAT a page on the FA website be established to provide links to current issues relevant to academics.

Karen Zypchyn is to put together a proposal for the development of a page on the FA website to provide links to current academic issues, along with some guidelines for the review of potential links to be posted.

3.2 Timing of General Assemblies

Jerry Zdril reported that a couple of members have expressed concern over the timing of the General Assemblies and their inability to attend due to parental obligations. The FA Executive Committee discussed some alternatives, and will consider these for future membership meetings.

3.3 Christmas Party Donation Request

Jerry Zdril reviewed a request from the University to support the MacEwan Employee Holiday Party with a contribution of \$500.00.

M/S/C Bob Graves/Jonathan Withey

THAT the FA contribute \$500.00 to the MacEwan Employee Holiday Party.

3.4 FA Mandate/Vision

Further to the mandate drafted at the last meeting and subsequent feedback, Jerry reviewed the revised mandate, as provided below:

Grant MacEwan University Faculty Association serves faculty by promoting a collegial teaching and learning environment within the University, by representing membership to external bodies, by negotiating collective agreements on behalf of faculty, and by supporting members in dispute resolution.

M/S/C Richard Pereschitz/Valla McLean

THAT the FA mandate as revised be accepted.

Jerry then reviewed the proposed vision. The question of whether or not the FA needs a vision at this time was raised. It was suggested that the vision be revisited once a new governance structure has been adopted.

M/S/C Bob Graves/Shannon Digweed

THAT development of the FA vision be deferred until such time as the new FA governance structure is in place.

3.5 Faculty Commons Advisory Group

Further to the motion made at the last meeting, Jerry Zdril reported that he presented a letter to David Atkinson concerning the leadership of the Faculty Commons, along with a recommendation to establish an advisory committee for the Faculty Commons. David accepted the letter, and indicated that there should be some follow up.

The discussion switched to David's previous request for a motion/support from the FA Executive Committee regarding limited appointments for deans, and the inclusion of deans in the FA.

Further to the original discussion, **Chris Hancock** will compile the comments of the sub-committee, and develop a recommendation regarding a Faculty Commons advisory group.

Jerry will invite David to the next meeting of the FA Executive Committee to discuss concerns regarding the Faculty Commons, as well as term-limited appointments for deans and the designation of deans into the FA.

3.6 Social Media and FA Position

Karen Zypchyn reported on her recent meeting with Cathryn Heslep and Paul Martin, at which concerns around the lack of policy to guide the use of social media, and possible actions to address these concerns, were discussed.

3.7 Governance Structure Update

Jerry Zdril reported that Tim Schultz's presentation at the General Assembly provided many people with new and enlightening information, and, overall, the feedback was positive.

The FA Governance Restructuring Committee will meet again next Wednesday, at which time it is anticipated that the committee will look at the roles of the various positions for staff and board members, and then decide how to address transition and implementation. The committee expects to have a complete presentation to make at the winter General Assembly.

3.8 Titling and AGC Update

Jerry Zdril and Aimee Skye provided clarification regarding the e-mail that was sent out regarding titling following the most recent General Assembly.

It was also noted that the FA Executive Committee has not formally accepted the model and process for titling recommended by the Faculty Standards Committee.

M/S/C Valla McLean/Aimee Skye

THAT the FA Executive Committee accepts the model and processes for titling as recommended by the Faculty Standards Committee.

Jerry indicated that the Faculty Standards Committee hopes to have a model in place for September. A report is expected at some point in the spring.

3.9 Faculty Evaluation Update

Aimee Skye reported on the last meeting of the Faculty Evaluation Committee, at which time Sarah Flynn presented a summary of the findings of the ad hoc faculty advisory group regarding the new instrument. Aimee and Jerry Zdril will be meeting with Janet Paterson-Weir to follow up on issues relating to faculty evaluation.

Also discussed at the meeting were incentives to increase student response rates. As well, Aimee noted that some courses that have lecture and lab components are being assigned (by PeopleSoft) evaluation dates for each of these components. Aimee will need to do some investigation into this, and asked committee members to let her of know if they are aware of other such instances.

The FA Executive Committee discussed peer review as part of the evaluation process, and the challenges associated with this, especially in light of titling. Aimee suggested that the FA may want to refresh faculty on the minimum requirements for evaluation, and indicate that the FA is determining its position on peer review.

3.10 Grievance Update

Bob Graves reported that a level 4 grievance hearing will be taking place next Tuesday. As well, Janet Paterson-Weir has ruled on another level 4 grievance, and a decision regarding proceeding to arbitration on that decision has been delayed to January.

Bob reviewed the process to be followed, should arbitration be considered for any of these grievances. Shannon Digweed inquired about the potential cost for arbitration. The Grievance Committee will have to come up with a ballpark figure for arbitration.

Jerry Zdril noted that these grievances have highlighted process concerns. **Bob** will highlight these grievance process issues in his next monthly report to the membership.

3.11 Negotiations Update

Jonathan Withey reported that monetary discussions have been the main focus of negotiations for the past three to four weeks, and updated the FA Executive Committee on those discussions.

3.12 Update

Jerry Zdril announced that he will be leaving the University in the spring, with his last day being May 11. The Executive Committee will need to determine if the

position should be filled by a by-election at the next appropriate membership meeting (for the remaining one year of a two year term), or filled on a pro-term appointment basis.

IV. Reports

- 4.1 President
- 4.2 Executive Vice President
- 4.3 Board of Governors Representative
- 4.4 Vice President Professional Affairs
- 4.5 Vice President Communications and Research
- 4.6 Treasurer
- 4.7. Negotiations Chair
- 4.8 Vice President Dispute Resolution
- 4.9 Professional Resource Officer

There were no reports for the month of December.

V. Information Items

No information items were reported.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was to be confirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Celine Miller
Recording Secretary