

## Mount Royal Faculty Association – Social Events Standing Committee Annual Report for 2011-2012

### Committee Members

Jocelyn Rempel  
Jennifer Hooper  
Brian F Fleming  
Darlene Windrem  
Becky Wilson  
Marlene Kingsmith  
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### Social Events

The committee hosted a total of nine events this year.

**September 30: Who's New at the Zoo:** this event was organized in association with the MRFA Professional Affairs Committee (PAC). The purpose of this kick-off event was to facilitate and encourage activities and the development of peer collegial relationships amongst both new and seasoned faculty in a relaxing and supportive environment.

**October 28: Halloween Hoopla:** this event incorporated a Halloween theme. Activities included the "House of Horrors" as well as a pumpkin-carving contest.

**November 18: Mix and Mingle with the New President:** This event was hosted to allow faculty members to get to know the new president of MRU, David Docherty, in a comfortable, informal setting. It was a 'classy' event and a classical duet (cello and violin) was hired for the evening.

**December 9: MRFA Holiday Party:** the MRFA traditional seasonal adult faculty event to wrap up the Fall semester.

**January 31: Welcome Back:** this event was a low-key event, to welcome faculty back after the holiday break.

**February 10: The Tenure Show:** The tenure celebration is an annual event and the theme mimicked "The Tonight Show" to accommodate the new format of introducing the newly tenured. The Chairs were asked to submit a list of top five accomplishments or facts for each faculty member granted tenure, prior to the event. The tenure show hosts used this information to formally recognize the newly tenured faculty. This took place in the Lincoln Park Room (LPR). As they left the stage their chair was able to congratulate them and give them a gift of a 'Tenure Show' mug and Good Earth gift certificate. Memorable remarks were provided to the newly tenure by David Docherty, Robin Fisher and Gerry Cross. Following the formal ceremony, celebrations of the newly tenured faculty achievements were continued in the Faculty Centre. Beer and wine was kindly provided with the compliments of the MRFA Faculty Association and the office of the VP Academic.

**March 16: St. Patrick's Day Celebration:** This event was a spin on the luck of the Irish. With St. Patrick's Day the following weekend, the evening included green beverages, and casino fun. AcesRWild, was hired for the evening, and they brought dealers, poker, black jack tables and fun money. Every person was given \$20,000 of fun money when they entered into the faculty centre. They had the choice of using this to buy raffle tickets for the many prizes, or to play casino games and potentially increase their earnings to buy even more raffle tickets. This event was very well attended and the excitement over the raffle tickets and prizes was astounding.

**April 13: Race to the Finish Line, End of Class Bash:** This April event was hosted on the last day of classes with the purpose to encourage a time of peer support and rejuvenation before marking and extensive end of semester obligations arose. The event included an Amazing Race, where teams of three to four people were required to find various clues around MRU. Prizes were given to the top three teams.

**May 25: Annual Keg Drain:** This event is a traditional final Social Event of the academic year. The event will include golf at Buffalo Run in the earlier afternoon, followed by a BBQ and the keg drain at the Faculty Centre. Light snacks will be provided.

### **Events Summary**

The events were all well-attended and made full use of the faculty centre's facilities. This year's committee focused on organizing varying events involving food, off campus activities, prizes and music. The themes were chosen to peak faculty interest and engage faculty that do not normally participate in the events. Offering events based around music, food, beverages and prizes seems to have provided opportunity for relaxation, socialization, and collegial development for faculty members. Faculty seem to have indicated their approval in terms of excellent attendance at the events as well as through providing both formal and informal feedback to the social committee members. The committee is attempting an off campus golfing event in May, and a good turnout is anticipated based on informal feedback from faculty thus far. Each off campus event should be reviewed annually to determine its success (i.e. well attended event, appropriate timing of the event etc.). The committee was able to provide a number of prizes at the events this year. Some of these prizes included lunch or coffee cards for the Faculty Centre. This was a successful strategy to encourage the use of the Faculty Centre. This also encouraged faculty members to bring new faculty members to the faculty centre for lunch or coffee.

As faculty schedules are increasingly diverse and even unpredictable at times, the committee attempted to facilitate scheduling and planning through providing a 'save the date' poster at the beginning of each semester and then followed through with providing individual monthly posters as means to publicize. This appeared to have been a successful method. Therefore "save the date" advance posters should be continued in the future. While committee members assumed the task of manually distributing printed posters to departments, Chantelle Anderson played an integral role in publicizing and ensured that all faculty were reached via emailing posters to all faculty and highlighting upcoming events in MRFA bulletins.

The committee was exceedingly grateful for the support of the MRFA executive and the VP Academic office whom provided donations for the tenure event. This provision supported the culture of collegiality, not to mention conviviality, that the MRFA and University are committed to encouraging. We also are grateful for assistance from the MRFA Professional Affairs committee, who contributed refreshments served at the first event.

Much of these events' success depends on the food and beverages, which were dependably purchased, prepared and delivered efficiently and economically, and with great dedication and cheerfulness by Darlene Windrem. Chantelle Anderson also helped greatly with her organization and experience.

## **Budget**

Brian Fleming assumed the treasurer role and in collaboration with Chantelle, has kindly kept track of our expenditures; an itemized list may be obtained from Brian or Chantelle. Out of a budget of **\$15,000**, we have spent \$11,039.56 as of March 31st. With the end of the fiscal year at MRU changing from April 30<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, the committee had one less month to spend the \$15,000. The committee had a balance of \$3,960.44 remaining in the account that will not be carried forward to next year. It is recommended that the committee budget the full use of the \$15,000 for events occurring until March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. This will ensure that all monies are used each year. Please refer to the SEC ledger, which details all expenses for each event. The expenses for this year also included a gift from the social committee acknowledging Darlene's hard work (\$300 gift certificate to Oasis Spa) and Chantelle's continued support.

Because all of the events (excluding the formal ceremony of the Tenure celebration which took place in LPR, no cost associated) occurred in the Faculty Centre, the main expenses were for food, beverages, prizes and entertainment. We did not have large expenses associated with renting sporting or other venues, and catering costs were kept low, primarily due to Darlene's hard work. Darlene did hire a colleague to help with the Tenure Celebration and the Holiday event as these two exceptionally large events required tremendous preparation. A small monetary gift was provided to this colleague. The Social committee did not have to pay for beverages for the September or Tenure event due to generous donations acknowledged elsewhere in this report. The one golfing event that will take place in May will be expensed using the 2012-2013 budget. Depending on the number of faculty that attend and the feedback received, the committee may want to consider a repeat of this event, or consider other options for recreational activities that allow faculty to socialize off campus.

## **Future Considerations**

**Tenure celebration:** this is probably the most important event hosted and organized by the MRFA social committee. This year, after feedback from the Executive Committee, the social events committee decided to change the format of the tenure celebration. Rather than each Chair introducing the newly tenured, two faculty members were asked to host the event and introduce them individually. The Chairs were asked to submit a top five list for each of the newly tenured in their department, and the hosts used this information to develop an individualized introduction. A stage was set-up in the Lincoln Park Room, and was set-up similar to that of a talk show. After the newly tenured was introduced on the stage, they were able to walk off the stage, be congratulated by their chair and given a small gift from

the social events committee. There was a lot of positive feedback with respect to the timing of the event. The total timing of the event was approximately 45 minutes, with 20 newly tenured being introduced. The committee did not receive any formal feedback with respect to the new format of the event and would recommend a similar format for next year's event.

**Calgary Corporate Challenge** The Calgary Corporate Challenge, in which MRU traditionally participates begins about the time that faculty have returned for the Fall term. The social committee may want to think about a reception or other event that helps publicize and organize teams for the corporate challenges.

### **Final Comments**

The committee would like to thank the faculty who came and supported these events, the MRFA executive and the MRU President's and Vice President's Office for their participation in and donations for specific events, to Gerry Cross for his continued support, to Chantelle Anderson for her organizational skills, to Darlene for her hard work, and to the remainder of the social committee members for their utmost dedication.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jocelyn Rempel  
Chair, MRFA Social Committee.