

Mount Royal Faculty Association – Social Events Standing Committee Annual Report for 2012-2013

Committee Members

Christy Tomkins-Lane
Jennifer Hooper
Darlene Windrem
Marlene Kingsmith
Joyce Woods (replaced Jocelyn)
Kathy Offet-Gartner (replaced Pat)
Patricia Kostouros
Jocelyn Rempel

Social Events

September 7th: Into the Swing: 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. In order to increase attendance of part time and new faculty, we provided one complimentary beverage, and draw ticket to any full time member who brought a part-time member (as well as to the new faculty or part-time member). We played get to know you bingo with prizes.

October 12th: Oktoberfest: This was an Oktoberfest themed party. We had great door prizes and played a get-to-know you game. We also had an accordion player come in, which was fun.

November 16: Taste of November: This was one of our favourite events this year. We had blinded beer and wine tasting with prizes for guessing the correct beer and wine identities. We also had food pairings for the beer and wine. People really got into this event. I can see this being an event to repeat.

December 6: MRFA Holiday Party: the MRFA traditional seasonal adult faculty event to wrap up the Fall semester.

January 18: Robbie Burns Party: We celebrated Robbie Burns Day with scotch tasting, Scottish food and music. As with the Taste of November event, we provided blind scotch tasting with a fantastic prize for the winner. We also asked Dr. Docherty and Douglas play the bagpipes, and Michael Pollock delivered a Robbie Burns poem and toast.

February 7: Celebrate and Dance Tenure Party: This year for the first time we included newly tenured faculty, as well as faculty who were named Full Professor in the celebrations. Because of the small number of honorees, we decided to hold the party in the Faculty Centre. We had introductions by Gerry Cross. President Docherty congratulated the tenurees, followed by individual introductions by each of the Chairs. Randy Generaux gave a few words regarding the new Full Professors, followed by an introduction of each Full Professor by their Dean. We had champagne, followed by music from the Steve Pineo Band. Gifts for tenurees included special tenure mugs and Keg gift certificates. Gifts for the Full

Professors were provided by the office of the VP Academic. Beer and wine was kindly provided with the compliments of the MRFA Faculty Association and the office of the VP Academic.

March 16: Vegas Casino: The Casino event was so popular in 2012 that we decided to repeat it. 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.

April 12: Great Escape: This April event was hosted on the last day of classes with the purpose to encourage a time of peer support and rejuvenation. This was also a chance for people to relax and take their minds off the budget situation. We had a fun summer theme with flamingos and buckets of Corona. We were surprised at the high level of attendance for this event.

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.

Budget: Our total budget for the year was \$15,000. The total amount spent on events was \$15,502.11. When we account for contributions from the PAC, Academic Affairs Subsidy and golf contributions, we have a total remaining in the budget of \$2,662.88. We have been informed that in light of the budget cuts, the SEC budget will be reduced to \$10,000 for 2013-14. I believe that this reduction will not have a significant impact on the quality of the events offered by the SEC. We will make this new budget work.

Final Comments

All of the events went very well this year. It appeared that attendance was up and people were really enjoying themselves. Faculty really seemed to enjoy the tasting events, as well as the great draw prizes we provided this year. Despite the difficulties for all faculty associated with the budget cuts, people continued to attend social events. In fact, I think the March and April events were a great opportunity to foster continued community among faculty, and provide people with a chance to relax with colleagues. Based on feedback from faculty, events to repeat include the tasting events, and casino. We will also aim to continue to provide great draw prizes, and complimentary beverages (and food) at SEC events.

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.

Christy Tomkins-Lane
Chair, MRFA Social Committee.