



**Professional Standards and Governance Committed (PSGC)
Annual Report to the MRFA AGM
May 08, 2015**

Members

Fredrick Ulmer, Chair	Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Harjinder Deol	Bissett School of Business
Jack Dobbs	Wellness Services
Israel Dunmade	Department of Environmental Science
Christine Giancarlo	Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Bill Glanzman	Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Scott Murray (ex-officio)	Department of Humanities, MRFA Vice-President Policy and Grievance Officer

Mandate

“The Professional Standards and Governance Committee shall recommend, develop and offer opportunities for faculty development and training in the areas of academic governance, parliamentary procedure, leadership, conflict resolution and mediation, labour relations, professional conduct, and in other areas that the committee considers to be within its mandate.

The committee shall foster professional excellence within the MRFA community. Professional excellence encompasses the ability to model leadership and collegiality, to be active in academic governance, and to act in accordance with the MRFA Bylaws and the processes established in the Collective Agreement.”

Activities and Accomplishments

This was the third year of activity for this committee (formerly the Professional Affairs Committee). The committee continued the committee’s tradition of co-sponsoring the MRFA “Welcome Back” event, which was successfully co-sponsored in September 2014.

On November 20, 2014 the committee sponsored an information-discussion event entitled *Changes to Tenure and Promotion – What you need to know* where Karen Manarin and Jennifer Pettit of the MRFA Negotiating Committee gave a presentation explaining the differences in the new Collective Agreement regarding the Tenure and Promotion processes. Information was provided regarding tenure and promotion procedures, and duties and obligations of department tenure committees. The presentation was followed by questions from the floor and a lively discussion. The event took place between 12:30 and 2:00 PM in the Faculty Center and was catered with delicacies provided by Darlene.

On Friday, February 13, 2015 the committee sponsored an information-discussion event entitled *The MRU Budget and You: What you need to know* in which Shiraz Kurji, David Sabiston, and Cliff Werier provided information about the budget process at MRU and other post-secondary institutions. The

presentation was followed by questions from the floor and a discussion of impacts of budget cuts in the future at MRU. The event took place between 12:30 and 2:00 PM in the Faculty Center and was again catered with excellent refreshments provided by Darlene.

On Thursday, April 16, 2015 the committee sponsored an information-discussion event entitled *Where Should I Go? Who Can Help Me? Faculty Pathways to Conflict Resolution* where Miriam Carey, Scott Murray, and Stephanie Stone gave a presentation which focused on how on faculty can resolve conflicts with administration, other faculty, students, and individuals and groups outside the university community. The presentation included conflict scenarios provided by the panelists, followed by animated discussion of ways they could be resolved. The event took place between 12:30 and 2:00 PM in the Faculty Center. Attendees enjoyed excellent food and drink provided by Darlene.

On March 09, 2015 the committee accepted a draft of a survey prepared by committee member Jack Dobbs inquiring into procedures and practices at department meetings at MRU. The survey is proposed to be administered in Fall 2015 with the data evaluated and results presented at an event sponsored by the committee where questions concerning if, when, and how Roberts Rules of Order could or should be followed in department, TC, and/or discipline meetings.

Finally, although the decision was not finalized at the time this report was completed, it is almost certain that the PSGC will once again co-sponsor the MRFA Welcome Back event in Fall 2015.

Respectfully submitted by
Fredrick Ulmer, Chair
The Professional Standards and Governance Committee