

September 2012 MRFA Election Results

The following MRFA Members have been elected.

Thank you to all who were nominated and who took the time to vote.

Part-time Member Representative

Brenda Lang, Bissett (2 year position)

Professional Development Committee

Joe Pavelka, Physical Education and Recreation Studies (2 year position)

Enrique Lopez, Languages and Cultures (1 year Position)

Part-time Faculty Member Representative Candidates

- Michele Braun, General Education
- Jim Davis, Computer Science and Information Systems
- Craig Ginn, Humanities
- Christine Giancarlo, Sociology & Anthropology
- Brenda Lang, Bissett
- Guy Obrecht, Theatre, Speech and Music Performance

Michele Braun, General Education

Having recently served on the Part-Time Titling Committee with the MRFA, I had an opportunity to engage with the activities of the association and I would be honoured to be able to participate in a greater capacity as the Part-time Member Representative. I would consult with our outgoing representative, Gerard Lucyshyn to ensure a smooth transition and to continue the work he has done on our behalf. Having begun teaching at MRU in 2008, working in both the English and General Education departments, I have seen a lot of changes happen for part-time faculty during this time. I would like to help to continue working on behalf of part-time faculty members and would look forward to getting to hear your concerns and work to address them if elected to the position.

Jim Davis, Computer Science and Information Systems

Working as a part-time faculty member for over 25 years, I have carried a full teaching load over that time here at Mount Royal. The first six years I worked in the business department and for the last nineteen years in the Computer Science department. I have served on the Economic Policy committee for 4 years - negotiating with the Board's representatives; as our department's part-time representative to the Science and Technology faculty council; by helping to develop as well as developing course for our students here.

Through this experience I have gained a very good understanding of the issues that face part-time members of this our association. I have been privileged to work with some great people and have enjoyed my time here. I know that working as a part-time faculty is very different depending on the department and faculty in which each of us works. I have been treated very well in the department of Computer Science but I am aware of many part-time faculty members working in other areas who cannot make the same claim. Working conditions have improved during my time here, especially recently but we can do better.

Now that we have largely made the transition to become a university it is time to take care of some of the issues surrounding part-time work that have been hanging on for years. Our last couple of part-time representatives have made great improvements but we need to have a better way to make the transition from one representative to the next so that things do not fall between the cracks as I have so frequently seen them do in my time here. It is time that we acknowledge what so called part-time faculty do starting with changing the terminology. Many of us are called 'part-time' but carry a full-time load.

Talking with Gerard Lucyshyn it is apparent that there is more than enough work for two people. He has been handling four major roles: part-time representative, part-time EPC representative, Part-time handbook committee member, and part-time grievance committee member. I admire his dedication and efforts to serve all of us. I would of course work with Gerard to ensure that none of the ongoing concerns get lost in the shuffle of transition.

I am also proposing that we change the system so that two part time representatives are elected to better serve our association's part-time members. Currently we have about 600 part-time faculty represented by 1 person whereas there are about 450 tenured/tenurable faculty represented by 6 people. The current representation is inequitable and the load mentioned above is significant. At present we elect one representative for two years. I propose that we do the same starting next year so that there are always two part time representatives with a one year overlapping terms. This would allow the workload to be spread out better and ensure that issues do not get lost in the shuffle.

I regret that I cannot attend the part-time candidates forum because at that time I will be doing what we all came here to do - teaching a class.

Craig Ginn, Humanities

My name is Craig Ginn. I have been teaching as a part-time lecturer since 2000. My first years as a sessional instructor were at the University of Lethbridge where I taught in the departments of History, Religious Studies, and Fine Arts. In 2009 I started teaching at the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University (MRC at that time), as well as one semester of teaching at St.

Mary's University College. Teaching at several universities has provided me with a comparative view of sessional contracts, benefits, working conditions, and institutional environments.

I have had two opportunities to serve as a representative for part-time faculty: In 2007 I served as one of two sessional representatives on the stipend negotiating committee at the University of Lethbridge. Last year I served as the part-time faculty representative on the Dean of Arts selection committee at Mount Royal University.

Over the past two years I have taken several opportunities to meet with Gerard Lucyshyn regarding part-time faculty interests. I am confident that through consultation with Gerard I could provide continuity to the role of Part-time Member Representative on the MRFA executive.

Christine Giancarlo, Sociology and Anthropology

On September 3, 2009, Mount Royal College became a university. With the achievement of this goal came a proclamation by then-president Dave Marshal to "... become the best teaching undergraduate university in Canada." The Board of Governors reaffirmed this goal along with one other, which had been expressed during its prior annual meeting to "become an employer of choice". Since we became MRU, part-time representative Gerard Lucyshyn has worked tirelessly to resolve a backlog of critical part-time issues and move us toward a more integrated, respected and collaborative place within the MRU Faculty. Gerard has made great strides in this direction; I believe it is imperative that this momentum continue.

My name is Christine Giancarlo and I have been a part-time instructor at MRU/ formerly MRC since 1992. I know what the "sessional career" is... I have taught Saturdays, nights, 8:00 a.m.s, and on short notice throughout my two decades here and have also enjoyed participating in the growth of our institution and community. As your elected part-time representative, I will work from where Gerard so capably left us off, with the aim of achieving greater equity for part-time faculty.

Next steps include the following:

Recognition: -by achieving an appropriate title (i.e., professor) for part-time faculty which better represents our role at MRU. This will be a first step toward equal pay for equal work and inclusion in the pay grid for all teaching faculty.

Job Security: -by providing regular, predictable courseloads over longer contracts.

-predictability for a minimum number of courses based on past workload.

Pro-rata pay: -pay that is proportionate to the workload of full time faculty.

-option to pro-rate pay over a 12-month period (as the fixed-term faculty do now).

Access to Leave & Sabbatical: -for long-term, full-load part-time instructors (i.e., professors).

Adherence to Rights negotiated under the Collective Agreement.

Did you know ...?

- Part-time instructors represent approximately 60% of the MRFA membership and carry 47% of the course load across the university-->

Your vote is crucial to successfully dealing with your issues!

- All part-time faculty are Regular Members of the MRFA and have equal voting rights with any other faculty member within the MRFA --> *Part-time faculty votes matter and count!*

- As a part-time faculty member you are entitled to submit an honorarium form for some compensation for any non-instructional activities you participate in, such as meetings of Faculty Councils, Academic Council, joint Board-MRFA committees, institutional task forces, working groups and advisory committees --> *Part-time faculty do have the right to participate!*

Brenda Lang, Bissett

As a part-time faculty member since 2002, I have experienced many changes within Mount Royal, including the introduction of General Education curriculum, numerous degrees programmes, and the transition from college to university. I have taught various courses within Bissett, as well as GNED courses. I have met and worked with many new and returning part-time faculty members through my work with the ADC (Academic Development Centre) as a facilitator in the ISPT programme (Instructional Support for Part-Time Faculty).

The evolution of our institution from college to university brings many opportunities and challenges for part-time faculty; we have been, and continue to be, an important resource for MRU during this period of change. I believe strongly that all constituents in the MRU community are better served when part-time and full-time faculty work collaboratively to meet MRU's goals of being the number one teaching undergraduate university in Canada as well as an employer of choice. Gerard Lucyshyn has been a strong representative for the interests of part-time faculty, and I'd like to continue that work as the part-time representative on MRFA.

Guy Obrecht, Theatre, Speech and Music Performance

I have been teaching Music History and Theory part-time at MRU since 2008. I also work as a management consultant, providing external evaluations of programs by modeling what they do and considering qualitative and quantitative measures of how well they do it.

I want to see part-time faculty realizing their potential as teachers, scholars, artists and community members. I think we can move in this direction by

increasing professional development options for teaching and scholarship, profiling part-time faculty for the community, creating forums for exchange, supporting collaborative projects and research, and increasing the recognition of non-instructional hours.

At MRU I have served two-years as the representative of part-timers on the Council of the Faculty of Communications. In my community I am chair of the parent council at my daughters' school.

It would be an honour for me to carry on the good work of outgoing representative Gerard Lucyshyn as negotiations continue for our Collective Agreement and to represent your interests cooperatively with the MRFA Executive and committees.

Professional Development Committee Candidates

Sandi Braun, Communication

A good deal of our working energy is spent developing and maintaining our professional status and requirements. Faculty need meaningful programs and support. The best support should probably come from within one's own department and discipline, but the university-wide community can provide other supports such as classroom management, identification of local resources to reach one's professional goals, and becoming successful in the MRU context.

Jarett Henderson, Humanities

I arrived at Mount Royal in September of 2011 from York University in Toronto where I had a long history of being an engaged and active university citizen. Since my arrival at MRU my committee work has primarily focused upon the Department of Humanities, and more broadly, the Faculty of Arts. In 2011-12, I established monthly meetings for MRU Historians to share and discuss our scholarship (we are continuing these this academic year at the Faculty Centre), co-organized monthly Humanities Colloquia that focused on teaching and researching in the Humanities, as well as organizing the History Honours Hurrah that celebrated the student research of History Majors at MRU. I am also the Faculty of Arts representative on the university-wide New Students Orientation committee and one of the members of the Positive Space committee that secured MRU's presence in the Calgary Pride Parade just a few weeks ago. I believe that my involvement at Mount Royal, and at all the institutions across Canada that I attended, would make me a valuable asset to the Professional Development committee of the Mount Royal Faculty Association. With your vote and support, I look forward to not only working with the other members of this committee, but also becoming involved in the various opportunities that MRU

offers its faculty, opportunities that, at their root, seek to ensure MRU's terrific teaching and learning community continues to thrive.

Enrique Lopez, Languages and Cultures

I had the privilege to join this committee in the past few years and I fully enjoyed it. If you vote me, I will continue my work doing what I really love: to serve YOU different and amazing events.

Ashok Krishnamurthy, Math Physics and Engineering

My name is Ashok Krishnamurthy. I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics, Physics and Engineering. I have been nominated to run for a 2 year position to serve in the MRFA Professional Development Committee.

As a member of the Statistics Committee in our department I assiduously promote the subject of statistics. Currently I am working in developing new courses for a minor in Statistics, conduct workshops on statistical data analysis techniques, offer statistical consulting services to MRU faculty. In August 2012 I offered a workshop on R programming language for the professional development of MRU community. This workshop had full attendance and was well appreciated. In the future I have plans to run similar workshops more than once each semester.

If I am elected for the Professional Development Committee position I will strive to promote interdisciplinary collaborative research activities with researchers within the MRU community. I want to make significant contributions to the Professional Development of MRU faculty via well-structured and organized research activities, avenues for funding and provide instructional support. I will encourage MRU faculty to present their research in conferences around the world.

Joe Pavelka, Physical Education and Recreation Studies

I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the Professional Development Committee of the MRFA. The experience I bring is participation in many MRFA education events over the past 12 years as well as experience with many professional development experiences external to MRU. I think a focus of the MRFA PD committee should be to find innovative ways to support faculty through the continued transition.

Renae Watchman, English

I accept the nomination to serve on the MRFA Professional Development Committee. I am a committed team member and am eager to learn the ins and outs of this committee. This is my 3rd year at MRU, and I welcome the opportunity to serve.
