

President's Report

Marc Schroeder
MRFA April Regular Meeting
April 6, 2018

MRFA “Member Census”

- **The last day to respond is Today**
 - See follow the link in the reminder email on the morning of April 4 (for those who had not yet responded)
- The 1st annual Member Census was conducted in March 2017
 - 531 respondents = 66% of membership (78% of full-time, 56% of contract)
 - This data has been helpful in informing the work of the MRFA, including:
 - With respect to informing diversity and equity work
 - With respect to advocacy on contract faculty issues
 - To inform the Association about member workload / working environment trends
 - To inform the Association about workplace climate, levels of satisfaction with institutional governance/administration, and levels of satisfaction with the MRFA

MRFA 2018 Elections

- MRFA Nominations Open on April 13
 - Deadline for Executive Board Nominations, May 2, 2018
 - Deadline for Committee Nominations, May 10, 2018
- MRFA Committee Affair, April 13, 2:30-4:00 ~ Faculty Centre
- MRFA AGM, May 11, 2018, 9:30-1:30 ~ Lincoln Park Room
- Open Executive Board positions:
 - President
 - VP, Policy and Senior Grievance Officer
 - Contract Faculty Representative
 - Communications Officer
 - Treasurer
 - Member at Large

Update: Alberta Labour Relations Board Application

- MRFA granted joint intervener status
 - In a dispute between ULFA and the University of Lethbridge
 - Jointly by the MRFA and AASUA (Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta)
 - Note: AUFA (Athabasca University Faculty Association) also intervened, but not jointly with MRFA/AASUA
- Rationale: the MRFA (and all AB academic staff associations) would be affected by the ALRB's legal determination of whether there can be more than one collective agreement bifurcating the academic staff of a single post-secondary institution
 - An ALRB decision would establish a precedent re: statutory interpretation
- The first phase of an expedited ALRB hearing took place on February 12

Update: Alberta Labour Relations Board Application

- The ALRB Decision was released on March 14
- Overall, a good news decision. In summary:
 - The PSLA and Labour Relations Code create a single designated bargaining unit (all academic staff)
 - Parties may negotiate multiple collective agreements which may contain scope clauses that individually do not comprise all of the designated bargaining unit
 - Some need for caution here
 - But the Code precludes more than one CA being negotiated where one of the parties maintains the position that a single CA shall be negotiated for all employees in the unit
 - In other words, the employer cannot unilaterally insist (nor can the academic staff association) on bifurcating the collective bargaining process, to an impasse (requiring strike or lockout to resolve)

MRU Governance Updates

- Administrative search
 - University Librarian
 - Dean of Arts
 - Associate Vice-President, Human Resources

Questions?