

COMMITTEE CHARTER

Committee:	Advocacy Committee
Committee Sponsor:	Mount Royal Faculty Association
Date Last Revised:	January 26, 2018

Preamble

The following is the preamble of the *CAUT Policy on Federal/Provincial Funding of Post-Secondary Education*. The statement is even more germane for the provincial government, because it is the principal funder of post-secondary education in the province.

“Post-secondary education and research play a critical role in advancing the economic, social, cultural and political development of Canada as a whole and in promoting the learning and development opportunities of all Canadians. It is the obligation of the Government of Canada to encourage the equitable and sufficient development of post-secondary education and research in all regions of the country by assisting the provinces in meeting the costs thereof.”¹

Mandate

In accordance with the MRFA Bylaws, the Advocacy Committee shall develop strategies for influencing public policy on post-secondary education, social justice issues, and other areas in which the MRFA policy on political activity and advocacy authorizes the Association to express non-partisan political views.

Authority

The Advocacy Committee is a standing committee of the Mount Royal Faculty Association. It reports on its activities to the Executive Board and to the Regular Members of the Association through the Advocacy Officer.

The committee may review this charter as it deems necessary and submit proposed changes to the Executive Board for approval.

The committee operates within the *Political and Advocacy Activity by the MRFA* policy, which states:

- The MRFA is a non-partisan organization. Except by resolution of the Membership, it may not endorse a particular candidate or party.
- The right of individual members of the Association to express political views or offer endorsements is in no way restricted by the Association, and in fact the Association has a duty to defend the free speech and academic freedoms of the members.
- The MRFA, through the President, may always express non-partisan political views on matters relating to post-secondary education labour relations and employment standards
- The MRFA may also, by resolution of the Membership and through the President, express non-partisan political views on education, community development, social justice and other related issues in light of the role of education in enhancing a community of citizens and improving society as a whole.

This policy also describes the processes for the development, approval, planning and execution of advocacy initiatives. These include expectations relating to the development, annual review and adoption of a set of standing MRFA Advocacy Goals.

Membership

The Advocacy Committee shall consist of:

- the Advocacy Officer, who shall be chair;
- the Communications Officer;
- The Senior Administrative and Faculty Relations Officer, who shall be treasurer;
- three Regular Members to serve a term of two years and to be elected in odd-numbered years; and
- two Regular Members to serve a term of two years and to be elected in even-numbered years.

Meetings

In addition to the initial meeting, which shall be held during the Committee Transition Meetings, the Advocacy Committee shall normally meet at least four times during the academic year. Additional meetings may be called as necessary by the chair. Quorum shall be four members of the committee, including the chair or designate. Minutes will be taken for all committee meetings and submitted to the Senior Administrative and Faculty Relations Officer for filing.

Expected Activities

The Advocacy Committee shall:

- develop goals and campaigns for influencing public policy on post-secondary education, social justice issues, and other areas in which the Association Policy on Political and Advocacy Activity authorizes the Association to express non-partisan political views;
- develop advocacy goals for recommendation to the Executive Board. Adoption of advocacy goals of the Association, including but not limited to a set of standing goals, and changes to or revocation of previously adopted goals, requires approval at a Meeting of the Association upon the recommendation of the Executive Board;
- develop campaigns related to approved advocacy goals of the Association. Campaign proposals shall be presented to the Executive Board for approval;
- develop material for external communications in relation to approved campaigns. Approval and release of this material shall be in accordance with Article 9 (Officers) of the MRFA Bylaws and with Association Policies and Procedures;
- as necessary, develop, review and update an annual, advocacy plan which articulates the plans for achieving advocacy goals;
- Establish and maintain a database of information relevant to advocacy. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - the relative proportions of compensation of faculty/staff/administration at MRU and other institutions;
 - a comparison of funding received by other PSE institutions;
 - a comparison of tuition rates at other PSE institutions;
 - trends in changes to the above over time.
- make recommendations for expenditures from the MRFA political action and advocacy budget to the Executive Board;
- as appropriate and on a regular basis, submit items and stories for posting on the MRFA's social media channels to the Senior Administrative and Faculty Relations Officer;
- encourage members' direct involvement and participatory engagement in the work of the committee; and,
- prepare a report for the Annual General Meeting describing its work during the year and a summary of its expenditures.

Resources

Support for the committee will be provided by the Mount Royal Faculty Association.

ⁱ CAUT Council, September 1991; revised, April 2002. *CAUT Policy on Federal/Provincial Funding of Post-Secondary Education. Ottawa, Ontario.*