

Executive Board Candidates – Member at Large

Megan Lalonde – Nursing

Sharren Patterson – English, Languages, and Cultures

I am submitting my name for candidacy for the position of Member–At-Large, MRFA for the upcoming 2019 election.

I have been teaching at MRU in the Department of English, Language & Culture for almost 30 years and am very interested in adding my voice to and assisting the union that has supported me and my colleagues all these years.

I began at Mount Royal in 1990 as a sessional instructor, then limited-term faculty, and eventually fixed-term contract faculty. Given my lengthy career at Mount Royal, I have seen and experienced significant changes within the student body, my department, and the university, particularly as we grew from a college to a university. As such, I have strong familiarity with the university and its practices, along with a good sense of the current climate.

As I move towards my last few years of teaching, I know it's time to step forward and do my part. To quote the famous comedienne, Tina Fey, "You can't be that kid standing at the top of the waterslide, overthinking it. You have to go down the chute." I am a communicator, an organizer, and an expediter. I work well with others, particularly since I am intuitive, committed, patient, and respectful. As Winston Churchill once said, "courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

I am deeply concerned about the current contract negotiations and, in particular, the increasingly precarious nature of contract faculty employment. I am eager to learn more about and make a contribution to the collective effort to protect our colleagues and foster positive growth.

Thank you for considering me for a position on the MRFA.

Richard Erlendson - Broadcasting & Journalism

Greetings. I'm Richard Erlendson, and I've been teaching at MRU either in a contract role or 9-month appointment since 2010. My first appointment was in Journalism for a few years before moving to Information Design for a few more. This academic year I'm teaching communication courses common to students in all four programs in the School of Communication Studies: Public Relations, Broadcasting, Journalism and Information Design. In 2014, I was honoured to receive the Distinguished Faculty award.

I earned a master's degree and doctorate at the University of Alberta, and have previously taught at U of C, Athabasca University and Grande Prairie Regional College. As well as 25 years post-secondary teaching experience, I've also served in leadership in public and post-secondary administration as a principal, department chair, dean, and vice-president, academic.

I believe I would bring much breadth and depth to the MRFA executive as a member at large. There is important work to be done. I want to make a difference in the final season of my career. My academic and leadership development for three decades have prepared me to contribute now to our professional association. Please give me that chance.