

Vice-President Negotiations

2 Years: Tenured Members Only

Anupam Das, Tenured, Economics, Justice & Policy Studies

My name is Anupam Das and I am offering my name as a candidate for MRFA Vice-President Negotiations. I am a tenured faculty member in Economics in the Department of Economics, Justice, and Policy Studies. I have been working at MRU since 2010. I served on the MRFA Negotiating Committee from 2017 to 2019. Additionally, I served on numerous Faculty of Arts and university-level committees including the General Faculty Council (GFC), Faculty Development Committee, Arts Diversity Committee, Economics Faculty Hiring Committee, and Contract Faculty Hiring Committee. Both the MRFA and the university-wide committee experience has given me insight into the workings of MRU and institutional weaknesses (from a faculty perspective). I have a strong sense of where faculty voice can be strengthened. I have other important experience that will contribute to my success in this role. During my PhD at the University of Manitoba, I served as the President of the Economics Graduate Students Association. Furthermore, as a researcher, I have considerable knowledge of the Canadian labour market. My formal training in Economics taught me a great deal about labour relations, and living standards of employees. This has also made me appreciate the ability that our collective membership has when we stand in solidarity and fight for our rights. I published several peer-reviewed journal articles on different labour market issues; many of which are specifically on the relationships between employment, real wage, and compensation in Canada. My interest in this position comes from my formal training in economics, and my profound faith in the significance of collective bargaining at all times, however especially in times of economic hardship. I believe collective bargaining is one of the most important jobs of a faculty association, whose aim is to promote the economic and social well-being of all faculty members. Ensuring faculty rights is key within an open and progressive academic environment, and I have a strong commitment to safeguarding them. I view the MRFA as a place where the broader faculty community can exercise its power to ensure our core institutional mandate while simultaneously creating space for faculty voice, and improving the work-life balance of all its members. If elected, I will take responsibility for protecting and advancing the interests of our faculty, and I will stand in defense of high quality university education. I feel it is particularly important to have strong voices on the Negotiating Committee especially in this time of economic downturn and the commercialization of university education. I very much look forward to working closely with Executive Board Members of the MRFA and other members of the MRFA negotiating team to establish the collective bargaining priorities. I will tirelessly work with all stakeholders in a transparent and inclusive manner in order to realize the highest possible gain from collective bargaining

Vice-President Policy and Senior Grievance Officer

2 Years: Tenured Members Only

Heather McLellan, FT Tenured, School of Nursing and Midwifery

I am pleased to allow my name to come forward to serve the Mount Royal Faculty Association. I have been with Mount Royal University since 1997 beginning with contract theory and clinical instruction, moving to a limited term position in 2005 and continuing to receive tenure in 2009. I teach in the Advanced Studies in Critical Care Nursing Program (Emergency Nursing Stream) which is housed in the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Within Mount Royal I have served on many committees at the department, faculty and university levels most recently on General Faculties Council as Speaker. In addition, I have also served as Chair for the Advanced Specialty Health Studies department.

From outside of MRU I bring with me a wealth of experience serving on a variety of different professional and community associations. Prior to coming to MRU, I was a flight nurse and manager for the Calgary STARS Air Ambulance base. That work allowed me to liaise with the STARS Board of Directors, different government departments and numerous other companies, organizations and boards from around Alberta. I have also served as a board member at large and later president for the Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association, as a board member for the Board of Certification for Emergency Nurses and Standards and Education Chair for the Canadian Aerospace Medicine and Aeromedical Transportation Association. I am currently active with two accrediting bodies, the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (since 2011) and the Commission on Accreditation for Medical Transport Systems (since 1997) both of which afford me the opportunity to hone my skills around evaluating adherence to professional standards.

Board of Governors Representative

2 Years: Tenured Members Only

Roberta Lexier, Tenured, General Education

Since graduate school, when I began a research project on the history of higher education and student movements, I have wanted a position on the Board of Governors. Now, as a tenured member of faculty at Mount Royal University, I am finally eligible to apply to be the MRFA representative on the highest decision making body on campus. I have long been active in university governance and faculty politics, including as the Advocacy Officer for the MRFA and as a member of the CAUT Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. I am committed to representing faculty members in various venues on campus and protecting and promoting academic affairs internally and higher education externally. I want to be your representative on the Board of Governors at Mount Royal University to ensure faculty interests are central to the decision-making processes of the university. I will be an active and forceful advocate for you at the highest levels of governance.