

Fall 2020 MRFA By-election - FEC Chair Candidates' Campaign statements

Miriam Carey

Economics, Justice, and Policy Studies
Professor

Colleagues, I respectfully offer my service in the position of Chair of the MRFA's Standing Committee on Faculty Evaluation.

The experience I would bring to this position is lengthy and varied. Now a senior faculty member, I am a full professor (teaching) who has worked not only in classroom teaching, but as a faculty developer and latterly the Academic Director of the ADC. In all of these roles, I have learned much about the evaluation of faculty. In addition, I am currently the Secretary of STLHE, whose constituent groups include SoTL Canada, the 3M Council (which awards both faculty and student fellows), and the EDC. In this capacity, I have access to the most cutting-edge conversations about faculty evaluation in institutions of higher education across the country. Finally, I have extensive experience in service to the MRFA (Chair of our Ethics Committee), the university (Chair of ADC, Speaker of Chairs' Assembly; Vice-Chair of the Teaching and Learning Standing Committee), and public non-profits as well (Chair of the Calgary Humane Society, Chair of the Law Society of Alberta's Access to Justice Committee). The experience I have gained, both in committees directly related to faculty evaluation and others, has allowed me to learn to surface various points of view, deal with them respectfully and fully, and facilitate the committee's work to completion under a wide variety of circumstances.

In the last five months, our faculty have been faced with an unanticipated challenge which is affecting education at all levels and around the world: the pivot to remote delivery of courses. Now more than ever, the means by which we are evaluated must be carefully scrutinized and modified as appropriate. With the experience of the members continuing on the FEC, I feel confident that this Committee can continue to advise the MRFA and our membership in alignment with its charter: to ensure that appropriate evaluation of all faculty members takes place. I would be honoured to serve with my colleagues in the ongoing fulfillment of this mandate.

Rena Watchman

English, Languages, & Cultures, cross-appointed to Humanities (Indigenous Studies)
Associate Professor (Tenured)

Oki, Danit'ada, Aba Wathtech, Tawnshi, Yá'át'ééh!

I stand for the nomination for the special election for FEC Chair. I look forward to working with, and to seek guidance from, the FEC committee, the MRFA President and MRFA Executive, the Negotiating Committee and VP Negotiations, and with all stakeholders to meet the mandates of the Faculty Evaluation Committee. Most importantly, I will listen to the concerns, insights, and needs of all faculty who teach at MRU. The importance of this committee, and others like it that exist at MRU, can work collaboratively in the oversight of faculty evaluative measures, that are fair, equitable, and reciprocal.



It is imperative to recognize that over the last few years MRU has changed much of its policy around faculty evaluation. There has been a great deal of consultation that went into the shift from SEIS and SPoTs and in addressing the cumbersome and arduous processes of evaluation. While student evaluations remain an imperfect system, there is also a need to re-evaluate the peer and chair evaluations. It is noteworthy that there have been, also in recent years, improvements to these evaluations, including required training and a reduced number of evaluations. In this online teaching environment we find ourselves in, it is particularly critical to reassess the various processes for promotion, tenure, retention, and ultimately faculty success as scholars and educators.

Ahéhee' (Thank you),

Dííjjí nizhónígo nee á'doo'áá! (Have a beautiful day today),