



## President's Updates November 30, 2020

Good morning, colleagues. Welcome to the second week of our new-look *MRFA Bulletin*. We hope you are enjoying the format. I'm highlighting 4 pandemic related items this week.

- 1) On Friday, General Faculties Council overwhelmingly endorsed starting classes on January 11 and delegated the decision to GFC Executive Council. The Executive Committee will review the implications of the delay and has the authority to suspend/amend any policies a delay will affect, including the Winter 2021 withdrawal date. A decision is expected by Friday December 4, 2020.
- 2) The Association is concerned that the University has decided that it will not extend or revise the existing MOU on COVID-19. The University believes the existing Collective Agreement, including those around the administration and use of student evaluation (SPoTs), offers faculty sufficient protections. Consequently, without an MOU in place, reappointment processes for 2021-2022 will not be required to take account of the circumstances of the pandemic, or if using SPoTs as a criteria for reappointment, that the SPoTs be given a lower weight.
- 3) GFC's Teaching and Learning Standing Committee is considering the Association's recommendations to modify the peer evaluation forms to take account of the pandemic. If accepted, the peer evaluations forms will clearly identify the peer evaluation was done during the pandemic, that we are engaged in remote delivery and provide space to identify the effects of the pandemic on the delivery. We hope the forms will be ready for Winter peer evaluation (especially given the University's current stance on evaluations) and directions given to those faculty who have had their peer evaluations completed in Fall 2020.
- 4) Contract faculty who have had difficulty this semester receiving unspent FDC funds to cover costs of remote delivery should contact their Dean. Please copy the Association when you do, so we can track the problems.

Finally, the Association continues to coordinate those members who are willing to help our colleagues who have been required to quarantine or are self-isolating. Click [here](#) if you want to volunteer to help deliver groceries or need assistance.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the regular meeting today at 3 PM.