



## Mount Royal Faculty Association Bulletin March 1, 2021

### Highlights this Week:

#### **#stopPSEcuts Survey Results**

Thank you to those members who took the time to respond to the PIA survey - "Survey results show vast majority of the post-secondary sector does not trust the provincial government to act in the best interest of the sector...The sector and the public overwhelmingly agreed that investment into post-secondary education is part of the solution for Alberta's current economic challenges...[and] The post-secondary sector and the public strongly disagree with the provincial government's cuts to post-secondary education." View the [Media Release](#) and [Survey Result Summary](#) online.

#### **MRFA Covid Members' Advisory – Faculty Wellness**

With the one-year mark of the pandemic approaching, the MRFA office is preparing to remain in its remote delivery framework until September. As we continue with remote delivery this semester, the Association wants to emphasize the importance of mental health and the measures it suggests can help with COVID stress, anxiety and burnout. This advisory highlights the Association's efforts to take concrete measures to alleviate the ongoing effects of the pandemic and to highlight the range of available resources available to help support members. Read the Member Advisory [online](#).

#### **MRU Homewood Health Session- Stress Busters**

On March 16th Human Resources, Wellness at Work is hosting Homewood Health to present on the topic of stress busters. This session will explore all aspects of the stress response, focusing on practical tips and tools to help bring employees to optimal stress levels, and helping to maximize energy and performance. Employees can register for the session [online](#).

#### **Study on Experiences of Faculty with Disabilities**

A doctoral student at UBC seeks input on study Exploring the Experiences of Disabled Faculty Members Using Institutional Ethnography. Tenure-stream academics working in Canadian post-secondary institutions, who identify as disabled or as having a disability, are sought for interviews about their experiences going through the tenure and/or promotion process. The study hope to identify how disability has shaped experiences in acquiring tenure/promotion status, what other types of work are undertaken or experienced during this process, and how experiences have been shaped by the policies encountered. If you are interested in learning more about the study or if you would be interested in participating, please contact Kealin McCabe (kmccabe@student.ubc.ca) EdD Candidate, Department of Educational Studies, University of British Columbia.

#### **MRFA Events Coming Soon:**

- March 2: **MRFA March Regular Meeting**, 9:30 – 11:30am. [Register Online](#). View the Agenda [online](#).
- March 5: **Academic Freedom on the Table**, 11:00 – 11:50am. [Read More](#).
- **Members Rejuvenate on Friday Afternoons** (selected dates) at 3:30pm on the following dates: March 12, April 16, May 21, and June 4. – attend on [zoom](#).
- Fridays at 6:00pm – **Faculty Centre Band Socials** – music lovers are still gathering for a drop-in music session each week. All are welcome to sing, play an instrument, or listen and enjoy. email [mholmgren@mtroyal.ca](mailto:mholmgren@mtroyal.ca) for the meeting url



- Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:00pm - **Tea with Lee** - on [Zoom](#).

### Question of the Week

**What are you doing to manage stress and workload in the ongoing remote work environment as we head into March?** [Making time for Self-Care](#), [Reducing Meeting Attendance](#), or [Not much/barely hanging on](#).

**40% of the 35 respondents to last week's question indicated they planned to attend the MRU Town Hall on March 3, 40% were not planning to attend and 20% did not know about it.** Members wanting to check in on MRU events can visit the MRU events calendar available [here](#). The MRU Town Hall is on **Wednesday March 3 at 10 a.m.** This meeting will cover topics including the findings of the recent student and employee surveys, planning for Fall 2021 and the 2021/22 budget. The live stream can be accessed [through this link](#), and questions can be submitted in advance or during the Town Hall [using this form](#). A recording of the Town Hall will also be available for those who cannot attend.

## MRFA Upcoming Events

### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Learning Environment - PD Series

The MRFA's Professional Development and Diversity and Equity Committees are co-hosting a series of sessions relating to equity, diversity, and inclusion in the learning environment. Additional information on each session will be available closer to the date and registration will be required for each session – [Register Online](#).

- **Mar 19**, 8:30 –10:00, Get Cracking - Difficult Conversations in the Classroom
- April 30, 10:30 - 11:30 - Supporting Inclusion in the Teaching, Learning and Working Environment

### MRFA Drop in Sessions – You Have Questions? We Have Answers!

Do you have questions about grievances, faculty evaluation, tenure processes, PD funds or other topics? Ask your President, and other Association Officers, at regularly scheduled MRFA drop in sessions:

- Wednesday **March 23**, 11:00-12:00
- Friday May 28, 12:00 – 1:00

Can't make it to any of the scheduled sessions? Submit your question [online](#), and it will be answered in the session and notes will be provided later. Members who submit questions online will be entered to win one of five 10\$ Starbucks gift cards. (draw to take place in May). Join a session: [zoom.us/j/93961554098](https://zoom.us/j/93961554098)

### Contract Hiring Information Sessions

Sessions are being offered jointly by the MRFA and Academic Affairs to provide an overview of appointment processes and important information with respect to the use of SPoTs during the pandemic. Session for Chairs on **March 9**: 2 – 3pm ([Meeting Link](#)) and a session for Contract faculty members will be held on **March 10**: 3 – 4pm ([Meeting Link](#)).

### Pre-GFC Drop in Meetings

The MRFA Academic Liaison Committee's pre-GFC meetings are held a day in advance of GFC meetings, from 1:00 – 2:00pm, on the following dates:

- Wednesday, **March 10**, 2021: 4-5p.m.
- Wednesday, April 21, 2021: 1-2p.m.
- Wednesday, May 26, 2021: 2-3p.m.

Zoom Links for all meetings are available in the MRFA Calendar ([www.mrfa.net/calendar](http://www.mrfa.net/calendar))



## CAFA News

### **CAFA Awards 2021 - Nominations are Open**

The Nomination Form and information can be found [online](#).

## MRFA Reminders

### **Volunteer List to Support Members Isolating or in Quarantine**

MRFA members have volunteered to provide support to colleagues who are isolating or under quarantine due to the pandemic. This support may vary but could include things such as grocery delivery. Members who are isolating and needing support are welcome to contact any of the members, listed [online](#), to get the support you need.

### **MRFA Comment Form**

The MRFA is seeking members' input on any matter relevant to the MRFA: currently we are soliciting members' input specifically related to members' experiences working from home and transitioning to remote delivery. Members are welcome to use this [online form](#) to submit their feedback on MRFA initiatives, communications, and any other matters the MRFA may or should be involved in.

### **Connect Online on Fridays**

The MRFA is hosting monthly open zoom meetings, **Members Rejuvenate on Friday Afternoons**, 3:30 – 6:00pm, for members to get together. Please refer to the [MRFA google calendar](#) (Click on the “+GoogleCalendar” so you can easily access it anytime) for links to MRFA zoom meetings.

### **Faculty are Asked to Complete a Profile Demonstrating the Value of PSE**

Even amidst the current challenges, we need to continue to advocate for PSE. The MRFA Advocacy Committee plans to showcase the value of the work being achieved, thereby illuminating the damaging consequences of diminished funding and support for the post-secondary landscape. If you would like to volunteer to be highlighted as part of this initiative, please fill out the [online faculty profile form](#) or contact our Advocacy Officer Frank Cotae ([fcotae@mtroyal.ca](mailto:fcotae@mtroyal.ca)). The Advocacy Committee will also be highlighting the significant impacts these budget cuts have on our students. Members are welcome to share the [online student profile form](#) with students who want to have their voice heard.

### **Faculty Members are Asked to Provide Their Contact Information**

Thank you to all members who have taken the time to provide their private contact information. If you have not yet had a chance to respond please do so now [online](#). It is important that the Association have this information on file in the event of a lockout or strike or other Association initiatives which require a high level of member engagement. Please note – this is just a matter of preparedness and is not in any way related to the current state of negotiations.

### **Google Calendar**

Instructions for how to add the MRFA Calendar to your Google Calendar are available [here](#), and the calendar is always available at [mrfa.net/calendar](http://mrfa.net/calendar).

## Dates and Deadlines at a Glance



## March

### March 2, 9:30 – 11:30 ~ MRFA Regular Meeting

March 10, 4:00 – 5:00 ~ Pre-GFC Drop in – refer to [Google Calendar](#) for Zoom Link

March 19, 8:30 – 10:00 ~ MRFA PDC Get Cracking for Breakfast

March 23, 11:00-12:00 ~ MRFA Drop in Session – Submit your questions [online](#) and attend the session on [Zoom](#)

March 26, 3:30 – 7:30 ~ MRFA Social Event

March 26, 2021 ~ Scholarships for Dependents Deadline ~ [mrfa.net/faculty-oppo](http://mrfa.net/faculty-oppo)

## April

### April 9, 11:00 – 1:00 ~ MRFA Regular Meeting

April 21, 1:00 – 2:00 ~ Pre-GFC Drop in (hosted by ALC) – refer to [Google Calendar](#) for Zoom Link

April 29-30, 8:30 – 5:00 ~ Spring Retreat ~ Online

April 30, 12:00 – 1:00pm ~ Committee Affair on Zoom

## May

May 14, 2021 ~ Contract Service Honorarium Deadline ~ [mrfa.net/faculty-oppo](http://mrfa.net/faculty-oppo)

### May 14, 9:30 – 1:00 ~ MRFA Annual General Meeting

May 21, 3:30 – 7:30 ~ MRFA Golf Tourney, Rec Day & Keg Drain ~ Tentative

May 27, 11:00 – 1:00 ~ MRFA BBQ ~ Tentative

May 26, 2:00 – 3:00 ~ Pre-GFC Drop in – refer to [Google Calendar](#) for Zoom Link

May 28, 12:00 – 1:00 ~ MRFA Drop in Session – Submit your questions [online](#) and attend the session on [Zoom](#)

May 28, 2021 ~ Scholarships for Dependents Deadline ~ [mrfa.net/faculty-oppo](http://mrfa.net/faculty-oppo)

## June

June 12-August 13, 2021                      MRFA Office and Faculty Centre Closure

## Contact Us

- [Office@mrfa.net](mailto:Office@mrfa.net) – All inquires can be directed here.
- [LabourRelations@mrfa.net](mailto:LabourRelations@mrfa.net) – All inquires relating to the Collective Agreement and Grievances can be directed here.
- [President@mrfa.net](mailto:President@mrfa.net) – All inquires related to Association governance and external affiliations can be directed here.
- [EDI@mrfa.net](mailto:EDI@mrfa.net) – All inquires and comments relating to equity, diversity and inclusion matters can be directed here.
- [Communications@mrfa.net](mailto:Communications@mrfa.net) – All inquires relating to MRFA communications can be directed here
- [Negotiations@mrfa.net](mailto:Negotiations@mrfa.net) – All inquires relating to collective bargaining can be directed here