



Mount Royal Faculty Association Bulletin May 17, 2021

Highlights this Week:

Executive Board Election Results

The following members have been elected to serve on the MRFA Executive Board. Thank you to all members who put their names forward and to all who took the time to vote.

- Vice-President Negotiations, 2021-2023: Kirk Niergarth, Humanities
- Vice-President Policy and Senior Grievance Officer, 2021-2023: Kelly Sundberg, Economics, Justice and Policy Studies
- Contract Member Representative, 2021-2022: Brenda Lang, General Management and HR
- Academic Liaison Officer, 2021-2023: Peter Ryan, Public Relations
- Advocacy Officer, 2021-2023: Marc Schroeder, Mathematics and Computing
- Diversity and Equity Officer, 2021-2023: Milena Radzikowska, Information Design
- Member Engagement Officer, 2021-2022: Roberta Lexier, General Education

Distinguished Service Award 2021

The Distinguished Service Award, given to members for their long-term, exemplary and diverse contributions to the MRFA, was awarded Shiraz Kurji at the MRFA's 2021 AGM. Over the past two decades, Shiraz has served the Association in many different positions including: Treasurer (2012-2018), Grants Committee (Chair: 2012-2018), Faculty Centre Management Committee (2012-2018), Professional Development Committee (2004-2006 and 2018-2022), Ethics Committee: (2010-2014), Social Events Committee (2004-2008), Tenure Granting Committee (2008-2010), and MRU Benefits Committee (2018 – 2020). The Association expresses its sincere appreciation for Shiraz's efforts to always go above and beyond in his dedication to the Association and his willingness to contribute in a variety of ways.

Post-Secondary Education and the Alberta Brain Drain Town Hall

Join students, staff, faculty from Calgary to discuss the impact of funding cuts to post-secondary education on the brain drain seen in Alberta.

Universities and colleges have lost millions of dollars in funding, which has led to higher tuition for students and thousands of job losses for faculty and staff. Survey results show that students are more likely to consider leaving Alberta. On top of this, faculty and staff are more worried about job insecurity and are looking to other options for the future of their careers. This falls under a rising trend of the "Alberta brain drain" where highly trained individuals like doctors, nurses, and others are planning to leave Alberta, leaving the province with a less diverse working force.

How might post-secondary education be the solution to a brain drain? How will positive working and learning conditions help people choose Alberta? Why is it vital that we support our colleges and universities against budget cuts? Our panel of student, faculty, and staff speakers will discuss this at our upcoming town hall. Join us on Thursday, **May 27 from 5 - 6:30pm** on Zoom to learn more. [Register here →](#)

Fair Deal MRU – MRFA Member Demonstration

Faculty members are invited to demonstrate support for your Negotiating Committee in reaching a Fair Collective Agreement. **May 28, 2021, 8:00 – 9:00am**. Register [here](#) to participate.

Due to ongoing pandemic concerns and gathering restrictions, this demonstration will be a drive by picket/honkathon.

Participants are asked affix this [sign](#) to your vehicle in advance, meet up at 8:00am in Lot 2, and remain in your vehicle. If you need a sign, one will be taped to your vehicle for you. At 8:15, we will depart the parking lot and circle MRU until 9:00am. *Please abide by all traffic regulations and follow the directional map [online](#).

Policies out for Member Comment

The following Policies are open for member Comment in accordance with MRFA Policy Development Process (see article 17 of the [MRFA Policy Manual](#)). Comments may be submitted via this online comment [form](#). The deadline for comments is **June 11, 2021**.

- [Policy Article 15 Amendment – Member Engagement Policy](#)
- [Policy Article 18 Amendment – Payments Policy](#)
- [Policy Article 23 Amendment – Meeting Policy](#)

Members may also submit policy proposals to the MRFA's Bylaws and Governance Committee for consideration. Policy proposals may be submitted via this [form](#).

Question of the Week - Fall 2021 Delivery, Timetabling and Accommodations Concerns

How satisfied are you with the administration's response to your concerns about fall 2021 delivery?
[Very Satisfied, Satisfied, Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Very Dissatisfied.](#)

In the past week, roughly 150 members have provided input to the Association on their concerns about Fall 2021 delivery. The Association has reviewed, summarized and conveyed these concerns to MRU's administrators and continues to advocate on your behalf to ensure that all concerns are addressed. Members wanting to submit comments are welcome to do so using this [form](#).

Thank you to all members who take the time to respond to these questions. The Association continues efforts in representing your concerns and your feedback is very helpful in this process!

CAUT News

CAUT Call for nominations for the Sarah Shorten Award.

The award was established in 1990 in honour of Sarah Shorten, who served as Vice-President (1982–83) and two terms as President of CAUT (1983–84 & 1984–85), to recognize outstanding achievements in the promotion of the advancement of women in Canadian universities and colleges.

Nominations for the award may be submitted by academic staff associations, status of women committees, or any other interested parties. **The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2021.**

The nomination form and procedures are available on the [CAUT website](#). Nominations will be reviewed by CAUT's Equity Committee and recommendations will be forwarded to CAUT Council. The number and frequency of awards will be as the Committee and CAUT Council deem appropriate.

CAUT Call for Nominations for the Academic Librarians' and Archivists' Distinguished Service Award.

The Award was established in 1994 to recognize outstanding contributions by academic librarians and archivists, other academic staff, or groups to the advancement of the status and/or working conditions of academic librarians and archivists at Canadian universities and colleges.

Nominations for the award may be submitted by academic staff associations, or any other interested parties or individuals. **The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2021.**

The nomination form and procedures are available on the [CAUT website](#). Nominations will be reviewed by CAUT's Librarians' and Archivists' Committee and recommendations will be forwarded to CAUT Council. The number and frequency of awards will be as the Committee and CAUT Council deem appropriate.

MRFA Reminders

@mrfa.net Spam Email Filtering

It has been brought to our attention that some MRFA emails are being filtered to spam when they are sent from the Association's @mrfa.net server. Please take a moment to ensure that you have not missed messages and mark @mrfa.net as safe if any messages have been filtered to spam (the most recent message was sent from negotiations@mrfa.net on April 13). Moving forward, the Association will be sending more communications from its server; so, it is important that you keep this in mind should you suddenly stop receiving our messages.

Send us an Image of your Lawn Sign

The MRFA recently delivered over 200 lawn signs to faculty members and other members of the campus community. Local and provincial efforts continue to get these lawn signs out.

- If you have not yet signed up for a lawn sign – [request your lawn sign today!](#)
- If you have a lawn sign – take a photo of it in front of your house and send the picture in to office@mrfa.net

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.

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). 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.

Dates and Deadlines at a Glance

May

May 26, 2:00 – 3:00 ~ Pre-GFC Drop in – refer to [Google Calendar](#) for Zoom Link
May 28, 2021 ~ Scholarships for Dependents Deadline ~ mrfa.net/faculty-ops

June

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

Contact Us

- Office@mrfa.net – All inquires can be directed here.
- facultyrelations@mrfa.net – all inquiries relating to member services, meetings, elections, MRFA Committees, and Association governance can be directed here.
- LabourRelations@mrfa.net– All inquires relating to the Collective Agreement and Grievances can be directed here.
- President@mrfa.net– All inquires related to Association governance and external affiliations can be directed here.
- EDI@mrfa.net– All inquires and comments relating to equity, diversity and inclusion matters can be directed here.
- Communications@mrfa.net– All inquires relating to MRFA communications can be directed here
- Negotiations@mrfa.net– All inquires relating to collective bargaining can be directed here