



Mount Royal Faculty Association Bulletin May 25, 2021

Highlights this Week:

Call for Statements of Interest for MRFA Executive Board Appointed Positions

Positions are available on the following committee to be appointed by the MRFA Executive Board in accordance with MRFA [Bylaw 13.1.1](#) and MRFA [Policy article 14](#). Please see the full details in the call for statements of interest, available [online](#). **Members interested in serving in any of these positions are invited to submit a [statement of interest](#) by May 27, 2021.**

MRU Committees with MRFA Representation

- **MRFA Nominee to the MRU Board of Governors** (1 position for 2021-2023 – requires tenure)
- **Joint Diversity and Equity Committee** (2 positions for 2021-2023 – 1 contract and 1 full-time)
- **Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee** (1 position for 2021-2023 and 1 position for 2021-2022 - 1 contract and 1 full-time)
- **Joint Committee for the Review and Interpretation of the Collective Agreement** (1 position for 2021-2024)

MRFA Standing Committees

[Negotiating Committee](#) (1 position for 2021-2022)

[Academic Liaison Committee](#) (1 position for 2021-2023 – must be from Science and Technology)

[Audit and Finance Committee](#) (3 positions - 1 for 1 year, 1 for 2 years and 1 for 3 years)

[Awards Committee Chair](#) (1 position for 2021 -2023)

[Bargaining Communications Committee](#) (1 position for 2021 -2024)

[Faculty Evaluation Committee](#) (1 position for 2021-2023)

[Grievance Committee](#) (2 Assistant Grievance Officers – 1 position for 2021-2024 and 1 position for 2021-2023 – one must be a contract member)

[Member Engagement Committee](#) (3 positions for 2021-2023 and 2 positions for 2021-2022 – all must be contract)

[Social Events Committee](#) (1 position for 2021-2023 – must be contract)

MRFA ad hoc Committees

[Ad hoc MRFA Search Committee for Faculty Centre Coordinator](#) (1 position for June – October 2021)

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 →](#)

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](#).

CAUT Awards – nomination deadline June 1

Sarah Shorten Award.

The award recognizes outstanding achievements in the promotion of the advancement of women in Canadian universities and colleges. The nomination form and procedures are available on the [CAUT website](#).

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

The award recognizes 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. The nomination form and procedures are available on the [CAUT website](#).

Question of the Week

Last week, 70% of respondents indicated they were not satisfied with administration's response to their concerns about fall 2021 delivery (most citing poor communications and lack of clarity around planning and provisions), 20% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and 10 percent were satisfied. In the past two weeks, over 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!

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.

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 28, 2021 ~ Scholarships for Dependents Deadline ~ mrfa.net/faculty-opps

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