



Mount Royal Faculty Association Bulletin June 7, 2021

Highlights this Week:

Colleagues,

For those that have not seen Associate Vice-President's ManyGuns response to finding the bodies of 215 Indigenous children at the Kamloops Residential School last week, it is included [here](#). The MRFA as part of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) has signed the Public Interest Alberta's [Call for Action](#) and its demand that "provincial and federal government to immediately implement an action plan with all First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities to locate the graves of the thousands of missing Indigenous children so that proper cultural protocols can be observed." Here at MRU, I want to acknowledge the pain and grief of Indigenous colleagues, Indigenous members of the MRU community and the Indigenous and Metis people here in this territory. As a settler and an academic, I am committed to use my research and teaching to hold myself and the state accountable for the ongoing effects of colonialism. I hope you will join me.

Lee

Call for Nominations for the MRFA Communications Officer

Following the May 2021 MRFA Election, wherein the Communications Officer, Kirk Niergarth, transitioned to the role of VP Negotiations, there is a vacancy on the MRFA's Executive Board. All MRFA members are welcome to submit a [nomination form](#) and a written and/or recorded campaign statement for this position by **August 24, 2021**. Elections will take place in accordance with the Bylaws at the Special Meeting on **September 2, 2021**.

September 2, 2021 Special Meeting

The MRFA is holding a Special Meeting on **September 2, 12:00 – 2:00pm**, to elect the Communications Officer and provide a Bargaining Update. The agenda and related documents will be circulated closer to the date.

MRFA Executive Board Appointments

The following members have been appointed to the following MRFA and MRU Committees. Thank you to all members who expressed interest in these roles! The 2021-2022 Committee Contact List is available [online](#).

- **Ad hoc Faculty Centre Coordinator Hiring Committee** – fall 2021 – Christian Cook
- **Ad hoc Retired Members Committee** – 2021-2023 – Anne Scrimger and Marlene Kingsmith
- **Audit and Finance Committee** – Melanie Peacock (2021 – 2023) and Tashfeen Hussain (2021 – 2024)
- **Bargaining Communications Committee** – 2021-2024 – Qasim Syed
- **Benefits Committee** – 2021-2023 – Brenda Lang
- **Bylaws and Governance Committee** – 2021-2022 – Brenda Lang
- **CAUT Defense fund** – 2021-2023 – Lee Easton
- **Communications Committee** – 2021-2023 - Theresa Merrells

- **Department Liaisons:** Ruth Murdoch, Nathan Ackroyd, Andreas Tomaszewski, Joy Chadwick, Sabrina Reed, Simon Raby, Marty Clark, Collette Lemieux, Robert Catena and Maria Jesus 2021 – 2023, Andrea Philippson and David Sabiston 2021 – 2022, and Richard Hayman Fall 2021 and Pearl Herscovitch Winter 2022.
- **Grievance Committee** – 2021-2023 – Todd Nickle
- **Job Action Preparedness Committee** – 2021-2024 – Robert Catena
- **Joint Committee for the Review and Interpretation of the Collective Agreement** - 2021-2024 - Anupam Das
- **Joint Diversity and Equity Committee** – 2021-2023 - Leah Hamilton
- **Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee** - Helena Myllykoski (2021-2023) and Scharie Tavcer (2021-2022)
- **Member Engagement Committee** – 2021-2023 – Rita Louw
- **Negotiating Committee** – 2021-2022 – Brent Oliver

MRFA Summer Closure and Contact Information

The MRFA 'offices' will be on closed for the June 15 – August 15 period. Members with *emergencies requiring immediate support* during this period are asked to call 403-483-4066. All other inquiries should be directed to the following individuals with an expected response by August 19, 2021:

- MRFA governance matters and media inquiries – President@mrfa.net
- Member representation, support, and grievances – LabourRelations@mrfa.net
- MRFA operations, elections, faculty benefits and committee inquiries – FacultyRelations@mrfa.net
- Scheduling and Faculty Centre Bookings – Office@mrfa.net

Question of the Week

What are your plans for the summer? [Let us know.](#)

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.

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