



Mount Royal Faculty Association Bulletin

August 16, 2021

Highlights this Week

Return to Campus Updates

MRU Campus Updates

Further communication from the University about mandatory masks, non-compliance, and traffic management was sent out by commsupdate@mtroyal.ca at 11:25am today, August 16, please refer to that email for more information.

Representing Members' Concerns

The Association expects that the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) will be engaged in discussions moving forward about the return to campus plans. The Association has two representatives on JOHSC and the Association will be working with them to ensure members' concerns are brought forward. Thank you to those members who have sent input over the summer months: all members are strongly encouraged to respond to the [Question of the Week](#) to provide further input.

CAFA Advocacy Efforts

CAFA is urging the provincial government and the Minister of Advance Education to provide a mandatory mask mandate, a return to testing/tracking and isolation regulations and mandating vaccine passports at all Alberta PSIs (as is being done at other PSIs across Canada).

Having Parking Issues on Campus?

The Association has heard of some members having difficulty with getting parking sorted on their return to campus. So, plan to require some extra time to get this sorted out when you first go to campus. Here are some tips and links that may be useful as you get parking set up:

Tips:

1. Install the HotSpot Mobile parking App in advance (even if you get your parking permit online the app is handy to be able to update your license plate when applicable)
2. Ensure you use your MRU email address to create your HotSpot account or change to your MRU email address in your existing account before purchasing

Links:

1. [How to Purchase Permit on HotSpot Website \(www.htsp.ca\)](http://www.htsp.ca)
2. [How to Purchase Permit on Mobile App](#)

Troubleshooting

1. [I can log into HotSpot but my login does not allow me to view Mount Royal University permits. Why not?](#)
2. [I am trying to purchase a permit online but when I try to pay for it by credit card, the system won't let me. What can I do?](#)

3. If the permits available online sell out, should I try going to the Parking Office to buy one in person?

Faculty Centre Update

The Faculty Centre remains closed until further notice: our target opening date is **October 12, 2021**. Members are encouraged to send inquiries and booking requests to office@mrfa.net.

Contact Your Association (@mrfa.net)

The Association has transitioned to a separate email server @mrfa.net. Please forward all correspondence to the following addresses. (note – all communications with the association are kept confidential in accordance with the Association's [Confidentiality Policy](#))

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

Save the Date Social Events

Create / Connect / Collaborate

The Social Events Committee is planning a series of events to be held throughout 2021-2022 based on members' diverse interests. Please take a moment to [fill out a quick form](#) which will guide the committee's planning on this new initiative.

Save the Dates

The committee has several events planned for the year. More information will be provided closer to the date of the events. Please refer to the [Save the Dates poster](#), the [MRFA.net calendar](#) and add these to your calendar. The first social event of the year is on **September 17**.

Reminder - Call for Nominations for the MRFA Communications Officer

All Regular MRFA Members, which includes all contract and full-time academic staff at MRU, 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, 12:00 – 2:00**.

Resources from the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee

Your Professional Standards and Ethics Committee (PSEC) has developed some useful resources over the past couple of years and is linking them here again for your reference. If there are any specific items you

would like information on within the [mandate of PSEC](#), please feel free to send input to FacultyRelations@mrfa.net.

- [When to contact the MRFA](#)
- [MRFA Ethics Bylaws Flowchart](#)
- [Robert's Rules for Online Meetings](#)
- [Robert's Rules Cheat Sheet](#)

Question of the Week

Please indicate your level of support for the following potential provisions for on campus safety:

- [Mandatory mask requirements for all learning spaces](#)
- [Vaccine passports to show proof either of vaccination and/or recent negative COVID test result](#)
- [On campus rapid testing for those unable or unwilling to get vaccinated](#)
- [Mandatory vaccinations for all staff, students and faculty before coming to campus](#)
- [Instructor ability to move from in-person course delivery to remote delivery](#)

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!

In Memorium – Todd Nickle

It is with great sadness that the Association recognizes the loss of a valued colleague and friend. Todd Nickle (Professor in Biology) passed away suddenly last week and he will be deeply missed by all of us. Todd was a deeply valued member of the MRU community and the Mount Royal Faculty Association. Todd taught "Introductory Biology (BIOL1202) and Principles of Genetics (BIOL2101) for two decades at Mount Royal... [he] coauthored two commercial textbooks, created Open Education Resources (texts and software), and [explored] new grading strategies that encourage reflection and practice." He was a highly engaged member of the MRFA having served on the Grievance Committee multiple times and on the Professional Development Committee. He was often in the Faculty Centre, always with his bright smile, positive attitude and kind words. Members who knew Todd well are invited to convey their memories of Todd to FacultyRelations@mrfa.net. When more information is known about memorial services the details will be conveyed in the MRFA Bulletin.

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.