



## Member Directed Groups Policy

**Category:** Operational Policy  
**Date Created:** March 2020  
**Review Cycle:** *Last revision: 2024 Next Revision: 2027*  
**Policy Sponsor:** Member Engagement and Services Officer

### I. Overview

Bylaw article 10.16.2 requires the Association's Membership Engagement Committee to facilitate Member Directed Groups with the aim to provide members with the opportunity to engage with the Association on topics of interest to them.

This facilitation is subject to the processes and provisions outlined below:

### II. Process

1. The Member Engagement Committee shall annually review the list of potential topics for Member Directed Groups. Should there be any proposed amendments to the list of potential topics, the list shall be presented to the Membership at the September Regular Meeting. Additional topics may be added by Members in attendance, by motion, during the meeting.
2. Members interested in creating a member directed group shall submit a [form](#) which shall be reviewed by the Member Engagement Committee. The Committee shall submit a recommendation to the Executive Board, normally, within 20 business days.
3. The Executive Board shall be responsible for approving requests.
  - Approval is subject to the alignment of the Member Directed Group with the Association's mandate and the approved objectives, values, mission, and vision of the Association.
  - Member Directed Groups that duplicate existing MRFA standing committee or ad hoc committees shall not normally be approved.

### III. Facilitation Provided by the Association for Member Directed Groups

Once approved, established groups may receive the following support from the Association Staff. All support shall only be provided on request, and it is up to committee members to submit the requests to [office@mrfa.net](mailto:office@mrfa.net).

- a) Meeting scheduling support – provided by the MRFA's Administrative Specialist,
- b) Room booking – meeting room access in the Faculty Centre – booked by the Administrative Specialist with priority over external groups, and
- c) Event catering in the Faculty Centre at cost – provided by the Faculty Centre Coordinator subject to availability.
- d) Communications Support – MRFA staff may convey communications from Member Directed Groups to the membership on request, in accordance with the MRFA Communications Policy, and with the approval of the Communications Officer or President. Such communications shall be restricted to the MRFA bulletin and the

internal MRFA Facebook page with exceptions considered at the discretion of the MRFA President.

#### **IV. Limitations**

- i. Member Directed Groups shall normally be automatically renewed when the group communicates ongoing work of the Member Directed Group.
- ii. The MRFA shall not provide funds, or support, to member directed groups other than what is outlined in article III, above, without prior approval of the Audit and Finance Committee.
- iii. Member Directed Groups have no authority to direct the work of the Association or its staff.
- iv. Member Directed Groups do not speak for the Association; however, they may offer recommendations to the Executive Board.
- v. Member Directed Groups are autonomous: they will not be directed by the Association. They can create their own terms of reference and determine the composition of their membership.
- vi. Facilitation of a Member Directed Group may be withdrawn in the event that the group is found to have violated any of the Association's approved objectives, mission and vision statements. This withdrawal of facilitation services may be initiated by the submission of a recommendation to the Executive Board.

#### **V. Related Committee**

- Member Engagement Committee

#### **VI. Related Policies**

- Communications Policy
- Faculty Centre Rentals (booking access and catering)