



Mount Royal Faculty Association Bulletin September 13, 2021

Highlights this Week

Return to Campus – Information and Support

The Association continues to advocate for a vaccine passport and we continue to press for improvements on the rapid testing program. Several resources and links to further information are available on [MRFA.net](https://www.mrfa.net) including

- [MRU Instructor Toolkit](#)
- [MRU Covid Response and Protocols](#)
- [Information about Refusal of Unsafe Work](#)
- [Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [MRU Incident Reporting Form](#)
- [Links on Covid aerosol transmission and control measures](#) (including info on healthy in-person teaching)
- [Teaching in a Hybrid World event notes](#) (Fall 2021)

To ensure the Association is best able to present and advocate for our members, we invite members to [let us know](#) if you are having to stay home and/or isolate due to symptoms, close contacts, or positive test results for yourself or your dependents.

Reminder: your colleagues are also here to help! If you are having to quarantine and need some support, please reach out to one of your [colleagues who has volunteered to provide support](#).

Introducing *Advocacy Matters*: PSE and the Federal Election

The Mount Royal Faculty Association's Advocacy Committee is launching a new, semi-regular feature in the *Weekly Bulletin: Advocacy Matters*. At least once a month we plan to share a short article that focuses in on a post-secondary education advocacy-related issue. These will be drawn from a range of important topic areas, from public perceptions and discourses surrounding PSE to matters of public policy at both provincial and federal levels. We'll try to give members a sense of the key issues and how they fit together, to include links to more information, and to highlight opportunities for simple actions you can take, both individually and especially collectively, to help to change for the better the context in which universities and colleges carry out their educational and scholarly missions. The Advocacy Committee is planning events and interventions, but we need members to help pull together with us to make them effective.

This fall, upcoming installments of *Advocacy Matters* will focus especially on building understanding of the diverse components of the Alberta government's [Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs](#) initiative—one that threatens to further the corporatization of post-secondary

education, to render Alberta's PSE institutions subservient to instrumental objectives and private interests, and to erode institutional autonomy and the academic freedom of faculty. Expect the first installment in the *Alberta 2030* series later in September.

In the meantime, we're sharing information about the Canadian Association of University Teachers [For our future](#) campaign, which seeks to raise the profile of PSE issues in the current federal election. You can read more about the CAUT's campaign to strengthen Canadian post-secondary education in the [August 27 issue](#) of the CAUT *Newswire*. And, if you don't already subscribe to this monthly national news roundup from the CAUT, we strongly encourage you to do so!

If you have other ideas about advocacy-related topics that you'd like to see us dig into, please don't hesitate to contact the Advocacy Committee via facultyrelations@mrfa.net.

Reminders: Funding Opportunities for Faculty

There are several opportunities for funding negotiated in the Collective Agreement, including

- [Tuition Refund Applications](#) - for reimbursing full-time, limited-term, sessional (teaching three or more courses at MRU in the same period), continuing, and fixed-term employees who successfully complete credit courses, or for graduate studies program fees, at any other post-secondary institution.
- [Scholarships for Dependents](#) - the dependents of tenured and tenurable faculty, full time lab instructors, as well as Continuing and Fixed Term faculty, teaching 384 SICH or greater, provided dependents are registered as full-time students in credit courses at MRU, and attain a GPA of at least 2.0
- [PD Allocations](#) - For reimbursing expenses related to responsibilities for teaching, research, professional or general University duties.
- [Contract Service Honourarium](#) - to support Contract faculty who participate in non-instructional activities (see current opportunities for [MRFA service](#) here).
- and [More](#)

MRFA Dates and Deadlines:

[Register now](#) to attend the MRFA's September 17 Welcome Back Social Event

- September 14, 1:00 – 3:00 - Tenure & Promotion Workshop - Register [Online](#)
- September 17, 3:30 – 7:30- MRFA Welcome Back Social Event – In-person and Online
 - See details of other social events for the year [here](#)
- September 19, Deadline to submit a [statement of interest](#) for [vacant MRFA Committee positions](#).
- September 28, 2:00 – 4:00 - Tenure & Promotion Committee Workshop - Register [Online](#)
- September 29, 1:00 – 3:00 - MRFA Regular Meeting - Zoom Webinar – [Register to attend](#)
- September 30, 2021 - Tuition Refund Application Deadline

Question of the Week

Do you want MRU to institute vaccine passports? [Yes or No](#).

60% of members who responded to last week's question indicated that they were not supportive of the return to campus rapid testing plan.

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

Reminder - MRFA 2025: Towards a More Diverse, Inclusive and Equitable Association - Open for Consultation

Last year the Association made a number of structural changes to make the Association more inclusive and welcoming. As part of this continuing effort, the Executive Board approved in principle the draft version of the Association's four-year plan MRFA 2025. The Board also endorsed a consultation plan that will offer members the opportunity to discuss the Plan. Members of the Association can review the draft Plan and offer comments [online](#) (Please Note: to see the draft plan you will need to [log in to your mrfa.net account](#)).

MRFA PDC Events on Managing In-Person and Remote Delivery

Save the Dates - Fall PD Day – Resources for Members: October 14, 11:00am – 12:00pm

Let us know what you want to learn more about!

The PDC invites members to [let us know](#) what types of PD sessions would be of interest this year. In addition to the series noted above, the committee is planning a PD for scholarship series in the Winter 2022 semester.

Scheduling with Your Association (@mrfa.net)

Trying to schedule a meeting with the MRFA but can't see availability in the google calendar? Due to the move to the @mrfa.net email server, the President's and Association Staff members' calendars are viewable by searching for them in your calendar using the full email address (i.e. facultyrelations@mrfa.net). Members are encouraged to contact office@mrfa.net for all scheduling requests.

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.

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](#)

@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.