



Mount Royal Faculty Association Bulletin October 12, 2021 (*Reading Week Edition*)

Highlights this Week

Remaining Committee Vacancies – Call for Statements of Interest

Academic Liaison Committee

Position: 1 position for 2021-2023

Eligibility: All regular members from the Faculty of Science and Technology. Experience on GFC would be deemed beneficial.

Awards Committee Chair

Position: 1 position for 2021 -2023.

Eligibility: This position is open to all regular members. Demonstrable understanding of the variety of ways and various levels to assess teaching, as per MRU standards (competent teaching, proficient and scholarly teaching and leadership and excellence in teaching), would be deemed beneficial.

Member Engagement Committee

Position: 3 positions for 2021-2023 and 1 position for 2021-2022

Eligibility: three of these positions must be filled by contract members and one position is open to all full-time members. For representative purposes, candidates from a variety of sessional appointment types would be ideal (e.g. lab, sessional, continuing, and fixed term).

Social Events Committee

Position: 1 position for 2021-2023

Eligibility: All contract members are eligible.

Job Action Preparedness Committee

Position: 1 position for 2021-2023

Eligibility: All members are eligible

MRU Transportation Advisory Committee

Position: 1 position for 2021-2022

Eligibility: All contract members are eligible

MRFA Fall PD Day

Hybrid Delivery: What Works and What Doesn't: October 14, 11:00am – 12:00pm. [Register online](#).

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.

Member Directed Working Groups

At the Regular Meeting held on September 29, the membership approved the list of topics for Member Directed Working Groups. Members interested in initiating a working group under this [policy](#) are welcome to submit the request [online](#).

Question of the Week

In this week's Reading Week edition of the newsletter, there is no question of the week.

Thank you to all members who take the time to respond to these questions. Responses to the question last week indicated of the ongoing very heavy workload of our members and we hope that all had the opportunity to refresh over the long weekend. The Association continues efforts in representing your concerns and your feedback is very helpful in this process!

MRFA Reminders

Presentations and Member Input Sessions - *MRFA 2025: Towards a More Diverse, Inclusive and Equitable Association*

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. Members 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](#)). Members of the MRFA 2025 working group will be presenting the draft plan and seeking your comments on the following dates:

- Friday, October 22, 12:00 – 12:50 ([Zoom Link](#))
- Tuesday, October 26, 4:00 – 4:50pm ([Zoom Link](#))
- Wednesday October 27, 10:00 – 10:50am ([Zoom Link](#))

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](#)

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 Cotaie (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.