



MRFA
MOUNT ROYAL
FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Mount Royal Faculty Association Bulletin October 25, 2021

Vaccine Directive

The Association has been reviewing the vaccine directive and its implications for faculty. The Executive Board meets on Wednesday, October 27, to consider a formal Association response. Meanwhile, the Association has reached out to any members who are rapid testing. If you have not yet been contacted, please contact Derrick Antson at labourrelations@mrfa.net.

Highlights this Week

Advocacy Matters

Advocacy Matters is a new feature of the Weekly Bulletin. At least once a month, the MRFA Advocacy Committee will share a short article that focuses on a PSE advocacy-related issue. This fall, installments are focusing especially on the Alberta government's plan for transforming PSE: Alberta 2030.

The [September 27 installment](#) of *Advocacy Matters* presented a brief overview of the provincial government's *Alberta 2030* project to thoroughly transform public post-secondary education in Alberta (a [slightly longer article](#) is also available). This installment focuses in on one of AB 2030's many interlocking components: the plan to transform the current model of shared university governance (also known as collegial governance) such that elements within the private sector gain outsized influence over institutional and system priorities.

With the fall session of the Alberta Legislature beginning today (October 25) and many political watchers expecting significant governance-related amendments to Alberta's *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, we can turn to existing government documents and a recently released analysis of AB 2030 to let us know what we likely need to organize to resist—that is, if we truly believe that narrow private interests ought not to dominate public education.

[Continue Reading...](#)

Fast Facts for Faculty

Did you know there are many different types of questions you can use when creating an exam in blackboard? [Click here](#) to access ADC's help page on creating online tests in Blackboard.

Looking for more support with your course? The ADC can help! Contact Nancy Funke at nfunke@mtroyal.ca or 403.440.6042

MRFA Events:

MRFA Executive Board Drop-in Session:

The MRFA Executive Board is holding a drop-in Session on Friday **October 29, 11:30 – 1:00pm**.

Register [online](#) to attend. This session is provided to replace the cancelled October Regular

Meeting. The next Regular meeting is November 26, 1:00 – 2:50pm.

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

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:

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

Faculty Achievement Celebration

This annual event, co-sponsored by Academic Affairs and the Mount Royal Faculty Association, recognizes faculty members' achievement of permanence, tenure, and promotion. The event will be held in hybrid format to ensure safety of all members attending. Members' invited guests will attend in the Lincoln Park Room (J301) and all other guests may view the event [online](#)

Last Week's Retirement Celebration

The hybrid retirement celebration the Association hosted last week in Ross Glen Hall was a success. Members had the opportunity to formally be recognized for their contributions to the MRU Community and we had the opportunity to say farewell to our colleagues as they move onto the next stage of their journey. Link to event [PowerPoint](#).

MRFA Smart White screen available

The MRFA is disposing of a no longer used smart whitescreen (that you can write on and print from). This item is being disposed of in accordance with the Association's [disposal of goods policy](#) and is available on a first come- first serves bases. Please email office@mrfa.net if you would like to come pick it up.

Faculty Centre Reopening Reminders

The Faculty Centre is now open the following hours:

- Monday – Tuesday: 9:00 – 4:00pm – by appointment only (email office@mrfa.net to inquire about access – please use your campus card to get into the centre on these days and knock when you arrive at the offices).
- Wednesday – Thursday: 9:00am – 4:00pm
- Friday: 9:00am – 7:30pm (Starting October 22)

Members wanting to book a room or the lounge are asked to email office@mrfa.net and all catering requests are to be emailed to facultycentre@mrfa.net

Covid Protocols When Entering the Faculty Centre

As a “point of service” the Association is required to verify vaccination status of all individuals using the centre. On entry, a staff member will be with you to verify your status (via the MRU QR code or the MRU email from HR) and to sign you in to the centre to facilitate contact tracing if required.

Question of the Week

How do you plan to engage in the Faculty Association for the rest of the (very busy) fall semester? (select all that apply)

- [Attend online events](#)
- [Attend online meetings](#)
- [Use the Faculty Centre](#)
- [Come for lunch in the faculty centre](#)
- [Book rooms in the faculty centre](#)
- [None of the above \(I'm too busy\)](#)

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

Reminders: Funding Opportunities for Faculty

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

- [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.

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.

