

MRFA Weekly Bulletin

December 13, 2021

Highlights this Week



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we head into examinations, I wanted to provide a report to cover December 2021. Despite the challenges I outline here, I nevertheless remain optimistic that the next year will be better than the one we leave behind. After all, we have managed to deliver a semester of in-person teaching so far without a major outbreak; we continue to work on making the Association a more inclusive welcoming organization; and most importantly, we have remained united in our goal of keeping MRU a place where students come to learn and where faculty can come to prosper.

In closing, I wish each of you a successful conclusion to this semester. After all the grading is over, may you all have some time to relax, regroup, and re-energize. The MRFA Office closes Monday, December 20, 2021 and reopens January 5, 2022.

Happy holidays to all!

1 Memorandum of Understanding - Article 17.7 Sabbaticals

The Negotiating Committee reached agreement with the Board's team on the number of sabbaticals in our next collective agreement. Essentially the agreement is to the 2019 number of sabbaticals (27 full and 11 half) with a rollover of unallocated sabbaticals to the following year (i.e. if there are only 25 full sabbaticals allocated in a year, there will be 29 full available the following year). This will be to the immediate advantage of members since it will mean more sabbaticals available this year.

The Executive Board on behalf of the Association would like to extend their gratitude to Kirk Niergarth and the members of the Negotiating Committee for all the hard work that went into discussions and ratification of the MoU as this is an achievement for the Association and its members.

2 Second Call for Sabbatical Leave Applications

In accordance with the Collective Agreement between the Board of Governors and the Mount Royal Faculty Association, there were fewer approved applications than sabbatical available; therefore, a second call for applications is being made on behalf of the Sabbatical Leave Committee. Please apply for a sabbatical even if you are unsure that you will take one. Remember that under the CA, you can under certain circumstances defer a sabbatical to the following year.

Please note the following deadlines for this call:

Second Call sabbatical leave applications due to Chairs for review by December 20, 2021

Chair to submit to Dean for comments by January 7, 2022.

Dean to provide comments by January 14, 2022

The Sabbatical Leave Committee will meet to consider second-call applications on January 28, 2022.



3 Reminder – MRFA Committee Positions Available:

The following positions are to be appointed by the MRFA Executive Board in accordance with MRFA [Bylaw 13.1.1](#) and MRFA [Policy Article 14](#):

[Joint Equity and Diversity Committee](#) (See [Article 24.3](#) in the Collective Agreement.).

Position: 1 Position for 2021-2022

Eligibility: All contract members are eligible.

[Ad hoc Contract Faculty Advisory Committee](#)

Position: 5 positions for 2021-2022

Eligibility: All contract members are eligible.

[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 positions 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



Important Dates and Upcoming Events

December 2021 Break

This year, the MRFA Office will close on Monday, December 20, 2021. The MRFA Office and Faculty Centre will resume functions for the members on January 5, 2022.

Social Event Organized by MRFA Triad Committee

Looking to connect with fellow faculty? Are you currently in a Triad? Interested in learning more about Triads? Would you like to do this over a free lunch?

If yes to any of the above, join us for a complimentary lunch.

- Date: January 12, 2022
- Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm
- Location: Faculty Centre

Register [here](#) to attend the event. Registrations close on January 7, 2022

New Year Event Organized by the Social Events Committee

Celebrate the New Year with Colleagues. To accommodate varied schedules and allow for social distancing, prior registration is required for one of the two sessions: Lunch or End-of-Day servings

- Date: January 21, 2022
- Time slots: 12:00 - 2:00 pm (lunch serving) or 4:00 - 6:00 pm (end-of-day serving)
- Location: Faculty Centre

Register [here](#) to attend the event. Registrations close on January 13, 2022.

[View MRFA Calendar →](#)

Invitation to Comment on Bylaw Changes on Article 13.1.3

The By-laws and Governance Committee has reviewed Article 13.3 and Article 4.1.6 and is recommending the changes be made as given [here](#).

Please provide your feedback or suggestions on these changes on this [feedback form](#).



MRFA Faculty Centre Updates

Access and Hours:

Monday – Tuesday: 9:00 – 4:00pm – by appointment only (email office@mrfa.net to inquire about access; use your campus card to get in on these days and knock when you arrive at the office)

Wednesday – Thursday: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Friday: 9:00am – 7:30pm

See Faculty Centre COVID Protocols [here](#)



MRFA Question of the Week

How optimistic are you for 2022?

- [Can't wait for it to start](#)
- [Moderately optimistic](#)
- [Kind of pessimistic](#)
- [Dreading it](#)
- [It's just another day](#)

Last week about 60% of our members indicated that they have not heard about Article 25 of the Collective Agreement. Therefore the Association will be working to provide more information about Article 25 and its importance to members in the coming year.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement in the Association despite the busy time of year! We look forward to seeing you again in the Faculty Centre if you are able to come up this fall or, if not, in 2022!

Thank you to all members who take the time to respond to these questions.

[How optimistic are you for 2022](#)