

# MRFA Weekly Bulletin

January 10, 2022

## Highlights this week



### 1 CUEFA on Strike

Concordia University of Edmonton academic staff have one of the highest workloads and are among the lowest paid in the country. CUEFA has been trying to address these challenges through bargaining, but the University administration is refusing to move, despite boasting record surpluses the last two years. On January 4, 2022, CUEFA became the first faculty association in Alberta to take job action to support their demands for a fair deal.

The Association has been offering its support in a variety of ways including arranging for delivery of coffee and donuts to the individuals at the picket line on January 5, 2022. MRFA signed other Calgary Region Faculty Association and postsecondary union a letter addressed to the President of Concordia University of Edmonton indicating our support of the Concordia faculty and urging him to arrive a fair deal. On Friday, the MRFA Executive Board voted to donate \$1000 towards the CUEFA strike fund.

This week the members of the Executive Board and Job Action Preparedness Committee will join the CUEFA picket lines on Friday in Edmonton. Should the strike continue, we are looking for more volunteers to join our colleagues on the picket line. You can sign up to volunteer at the picket line in Edmonton [here](#). The Association will be reimbursing the costs involved in travelling up to Edmonton and back. There will be two time slots to join the picket lines: 9:00 - 11:00am and 1:00 to 3:00pm. The picket lines will be organized at the following location:

11202 73 St NW, Edmonton, AB T5B

Members who sign up for the picket lines will be asked to share their learning with the Job Action Preparedness Committee to make the Association's job action initiatives more effective.

## Important Dates and Upcoming Events

### Triad Lunch Event

Given the current restrictions the Triad Lunch Event 'Meet Friends & Colleagues; Old & New' that was scheduled for January 12, 2022, has been postponed. However, the committee would still like to have lunch with those registered and hoping to register for an online, 'bring-your-own lunch' event.

Date: January 12, 2022

Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm

Register [here](#) to join the meeting

Join the meeting [here](#)

Join to connect with colleagues and have a chance to win gift cards to Uber Eats! The draw will be performed after the event

### Special Meeting for Negotiations Update

On 24 and 25 January, the Board and the MRFA will engage in formal mediation facilitated by the Labour Relations Board appointed mediator, Lyle Kanee. There will be one final bargaining meeting between the teams on 17 January. Following this bargaining session, this special meeting, the MRFA will update the membership on any progress made, explain the MRFA's expectations for mediation, and probable timelines for reaching an agreement.

Date: Jan 17, 2022

Time: 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Register [here](#) to join the event

### New Year Event Organized by the Social Events Committee

This event has been rescheduled to Feb 4, 2022 subject to the reopening of the MRFA office on Jan 24, 2022 as per the pandemic regulations.

Date: February 04, 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 Jan 13, 2022

### Regular Meeting

Date: January 31, 2022

Time: 10:00 - 11:50am

Register [here](#) to join the meeting

### Special Meeting

Date: January 31, 2022

Time: 10:15am

Register [here](#) to join the meeting

Changes to MRFA Bylaws available [here](#)

[View MRFA Calendar →](#)

## Student Massage Therapy Clinic is Open - support students and get a massage!

Appointments are now available for you to book at a reduced rate while supporting students. The experience they gain in the clinic is a critical piece of their education and we are proud to provide this vital service to our community. Whether you need a relaxation massage or have a condition that requires therapeutic treatment, our students are trained to the highest standards nationally and can meet your needs. [Book Now](#). The \$30 fee for one-hour massage treatments supports our student scholarships. Present your [MRU OneCard](#) for a special MRU Advantage rate of \$20. Please bring an exact change or a cheque. For more information, visit our website: [mru.ca/bookamassage](http://mru.ca/bookamassage)



## 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](#):

### [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

## Question of the Week

[How prepared are you, financially, to engage in job action that may reduce your income for a period of time?](#)

- [Somewhat](#)
- [Not at all](#)
- [I'm all for job action](#)
- [Depends on how long the job action is](#)

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 when it's safe to do so!

How prepared are you financially to engage in job action that may reduce your income for a period of time?