

MRFA Weekly Bulletin

October 11, 2022



Advocacy Matters

Advocacy Matters is a semi-regular 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.

By approval at our September Regular Meeting, MRFA members have unanimously endorsed our updated set of [standing advocacy goals](#). Through these, the we affirm our commitment to a vision of universal, equitable access to affordable, high-quality public PSE, comprising diverse programs of study and scholarship that grow our knowledge and understanding and that uphold our University's responsibilities to its many publics—that is, to healthy PSE as a public good. This is a vision of PSE in which all members of the academic staff play a decisive role in shared governance and participate meaningfully in protecting and strengthening the conditions necessary for robust academic work. Check them out if you haven't already!

Fair Employment Week (Oct. 17-21), a national initiative to highlight issues facing contract faculty and to advocate for reduced precarity at MRU and across the PSE sector, is just around the corner! Watch for announcements starting this week about simple steps you can take with your colleagues to add your voices to calls for positive change.

Save the Date (October 24) Rally for AB PSE at UofC - more details to follow.

[Read other issues of Advocacy Matters here](#)

Call for Statements of Interest

Call for Statements of Interest - MRFA Interim Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Council

The Executive Board has recently approved the terms of reference for the Interim IDEA Council, and is now calling for members to submit their [statements of interest](#) to serve on this Council.

The IDEA council—as described in the [MRFA 2025 Plan](#)—will advise on ways for the MRFA to increase historically excluded members' engagement with the Association and representation on its committees and its executive, to create, implement, and support inclusive, diverse, and equitable Association systems and structures, to strengthen the Association's working environment to prioritize safety for its members and staff, and to build members' capacity to develop and implement EDI in the Association and across MRU.

The role of the IDEA Council in achieving these Association goals is to guide, advise and liaise with MRFA Committees and Officers on issues of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA).

[View the Interim IDEA Council Terms of Reference Here](#)



CAUT Awards - Calls for Nominations

CAUT Equity Award

- This Award was established in 2010 to recognize post-secondary academic staff and groups who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to challenging exclusionary behaviours and practices such as racism and homophobia and by so doing have made post-secondary education in Canada more inclusive.
- Criteria:
 - The candidate must be an academic staff member or group at a Canadian post-secondary institution.
 - The candidate's contribution must have had regional or national implications although it may have been focused locally (in a single university or college), provincially, regionally, nationally or a combination of these.
 - The candidate's contribution may derive from the result of a single project or activity, or the accumulation of efforts through consistent involvement over a long period of time.
- The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2023, and the nomination form and procedures are available on the [CAUT website](#).

Donald C. Savage Award

- This Award was established in 1997 in honour of Donald C. Savage, Executive Director of CAUT 1972-1997, and was instituted to honour and to recognize outstanding achievements in the promotion of collective bargaining in Canadian universities and colleges.
- Criteria:
 - Candidates need not be a member of the academic community, but the results of their contribution(s) must have benefitted the cause of collective bargaining in the post-secondary sector.
 - The outstanding quality of the contribution may derive from the result of a single project or activity, or the accumulation of efforts through consistent involvement over a long period of time in supporting the cause of collective bargaining in the post-secondary sector.
 - Candidates' contributions which have had national implications for the collective bargaining process may have been focused locally (in a single university or college), provincially, regionally, nationally, or a combination of these.
- The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2023 and the form and procedures are available on the [CAUT website](#).

Bernice Schrank Award

- This Award was established in 2013 to recognize outstanding contributions to the enforcement of academic staff workplace rights through grievance/arbitration.
- Criteria
 - Eligible candidates must be or have been academic staff, at a Canadian post-secondary institution.
 - The candidate's achievement(s) must include:
 - a demonstrable history of consistent and active defense of collective agreement provisions through the grievance process over a long period of time;
 - leadership within their association; and
 - educational initiatives associated with the transmission of grievance handling knowledge and skills.
 - The candidates' contributions, although they may have been focused locally in a single university or college, must have had regional or national implications.
- The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2023, and the nomination form and procedures are available on the [CAUT website](#).

[Read more on the CAUT Website](#)



Upcoming MRFA Events

Reminder: Members Rejuvenate on Friday Afternoons

The MRFA hosts weekly Socials every Friday in the Faculty Centre from 3:30 - 7:00pm. Members are invited to come up to connect and socialize with colleagues, enjoy good food, drinks, and company, and listen to (or participate in) the Faculty band.

Upcoming MRFA Events and Meetings

- **Register Now - Fall PD Day on October 13 - Supporting Faculty and Students in the re-integration to in-person teaching and learning.** Participants are able to register for any or all of the morning sessions which will be focused on supporting students, lunch in the faculty centre, and afternoon sessions focused on supporting faculty.
- Fair Employment Week - October 17 - 21** (stay tuned for more details to come)
 - Contract Faculty Drop in Sessions with the Contract Member Officer, Brenda Lang
 - October 18, 1:00 - 2:00pm - with Lecturers
 - October 20, 1:00 - 2:00pm - with Clinical Instructors
 - October 21, 1:00 - 2:00pm - with Lab Instructors
 - Please note - contract members are welcome to attend any session for which they are available.
- MRFA Revisioning Town Halls: October 17-18, 12:00 - 1:00pm.** Come discuss the MRFA's Mission, Vision, and Values (in the Faculty Centre and online)
- Pre-GFC Drop in Sessions - Online on Wednesdays 1:00 - 1:50pm** (see mrfa.net/calendar for links):
 - October 19, November 23, January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, and May 17.
- Remaining MRFA Fall Regular Meetings:**
 - October 26, 11:00 - 1:00pm
 - November 28, 10:00am - 12:00pm
- Remaining Fall Social Events:**
 - Craft Night - November 18, 3:30 - 7:00pm (family members welcome) in the Faculty Centre
 - End of Semester Party - December 9, 3:30 - 7:00pm (family members welcome) in the FC
- Breakfast with the Board, November 15, 8:30 - 10:00am in the Faculty Centre.** Come meet, eat, and discuss items of interest to you with members of your MRFA Executive Board. (registration will open closer to the date)

MRFA Policy Consultation

The following Policy is open for member consultation. Member input can be provided [here](#)

- [MRFA Payments Policy - Honourarium](#) (open for comment until Oct 26, 2022)

Phishing Attempts and MRU Resources

It has been brought to our attention that there have been phishing attempts where mrfa.net email accounts are being spoofed. Please ensure that you follow the instructions and resources provided through the [MRU cybersecurity awareness and training sessions](#) and do not follow any links or provide any information that you consider suspicious. Namely, do not respond to suspicious emails. Create a new email and [contact the Association directly](#).



Question of the Week

Please indicate how often you have access to hybrid meetings for MRU work?

- [Always](#)
- [Often](#)
- [Sometimes](#)
- [Rarely](#)
- [Never](#)

Last Week's Results

The majority of respondents to last week's question of the week indicated support for a scent free workplace at MRU and in the MRFA with comments focusing on allergies, asthma, and other health concerns which can be exacerbated by strong scents. 51% agreed that MRU should have a scent free policy and 57% agreed that the MRFA should have one, several respondents did not agree or disagree, and 37% of respondents disagreed with the MRU having a scent free policy and 33% disagreed with the MRFA having a scent free policy.

Thank you to all members who provide feedback in our Questions of the Week. *Feel free to suggest your own question of the week*

[Let us know how often you have access to hybrid meetings for MRU related work?](#)



MRFA Bistro

MRFA Bistro – Lunch Service is available Wednesday – Friday, 11:00am – 2:00pm

- [Faculty Centre Lunch Menu](#)
- [MRFA Bistro Takeout Order Form](#)

Reminders:

- Members must use their campus cards to access the centre
- Members bringing guests into the centre must sign guests in with Robert (W-F), with Joy (M-R), or [online](#)

[View the MRFA Bistro menu here](#)

[Send us your feedback](#)

[View the webpage on mrfa.net](#)

[Request a Meeting Room](#)