

MRFA Weekly Bulletin

October 24, 2022



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FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Contract Faculty will be Compensated for Mandatory Workplace Training

The Association has received confirmation that the University will be providing compensation for contract members who complete the mandatory workplace safety training. Payroll is currently working on the details of how and when this payment will occur. We expect further details shortly.

Academic Liaison Committee(ALC): Three open MRFA - Faculty Level Service Opportunities

Dear Faculties of (1) ADC/GNED, (2) Arts, and (3) Science and Technology GFC councillors and colleagues,

We presently have three openings for the MRFA Academic Liaison Committee (ALC) faculty representative roles for these three respective faculties: (1) ADC/GNED, (2) Arts, and (3) Science and Technology. The ALC meets once a month to analyze, summarize and discuss each monthly GFC package, to help provide university-wide perspectives for our colleagues prior to the GFC meetings. The ALC faculty representative role is a great way for new members to learn about GFC, prior to deciding to become a councillor; or, if you are a new GFC member, this ALC role can help you to remain an engaged representative at GFC and build institutional leadership for your faculty.

Please contact the Academic Liaison Officer (ALO), Peter Ryan (e: pryan@mtroyal.ca), if you are interested in taking on this service role for your faculty.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration of this message.

[Send your Statement of Interest to Office@mrfa.net](mailto:Office@mrfa.net)

Teaching Excellence Awards -

The MRFA's Teaching Excellence Awards are open for nominations from October 2022 to May 2023.

All Academic staff (full-time and contract) at MRU are eligible to be nominated: these awards are open to all faculty, including those who do teaching equivalent work. Work has been done over the past few years to ensure these forms and processes are equitable and inclusive, and, to reduce the work involved in nominating and accepting nominations.

If you have any questions about these awards, please email facultyrelations@mrfa.net

[Submit a nomination for the MRFA Teaching Excellence Awards](#)

Fair Employment Week 2022

Thank you to all members who supported Fair Employment Week last week! Your engagement and support of this annual initiative is integral in ongoing efforts to advocate for improved working conditions for Contract Faculty. 176 members have signed the petition to date and it is not too late to sign. The petition will remain open until October 27.

There will be a full report on the activities of Fair Employment Week from the MRFA's Advocacy Officer, Marc Schroeder, at the Regular Meeting on October 26.

[Sign the Petition](#)

Covid Monitor

The Association continues to monitor the Covid situation watching hospitalization rates and developments elsewhere in the country.

Reminders:

- CO2 monitors are available that members can [borrow](#) to test their instructional spaces: we recommend that several readings be taken. Read the [Covid Update](#) for information about placement and use of monitors and please complete this [form](#) to submit the readings you get when testing CO2 in instructional spaces.
- The seasonal flu shot and the bivalent vaccine are both currently available.
- You can work with your Chair if you are not feeling well and are able to continue work remotely. Faculty are similarly asked to encourage students to stay home when ill, and faculty can ask students to mask in classrooms (but cannot require it).

[Borrow a CO2 monitor](#)

[Submit CO2 readings here](#)



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Reminder - Policies and Bylaws

The following policies and bylaws are out for Member consultation:

- *Bylaw 5-Membership* and delete references to all other categories of members and membership ([Rationale / Draft Proposed Amendments](#))
- *Individual Associates Policy* to replace and better define types of Associates of the MRFA ([Rationale / Draft Proposed Policy](#))
- Replace Bylaw 16 with a *Standards of Professional Behaviour* policy ([Rationale / Draft Proposed Policy](#)) and create a set of policies that better define how the Association deals with internal complaints that comply with legislation and the *Alberta Labour Relations Code* including
 - *Operations Complaint Policy and Procedures* ([Draft Proposed Policy](#))
 - *Member Conduct Policy and Procedures* ([Draft Proposed Policy](#))
 - *Policy Against Abuse Of MRFA Staff* ([Draft Proposed Amendments](#))

[See the draft policies and Bylaw changes here](#)

[Submit Comments on the proposals here](#)



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

- **Pre-GFC Drop in Sessions - Online and in-person (in the Faculty Centre - Peggy Brydon Room) on Wednesdays 1:00 - 1:50pm** (see mrfa.net/calendar for links):
 - November 23, January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, and May 17.
- **Remaining MRFA Fall Regular Meetings:**
 - October 26, 11:00 - 1:00pm - The agenda is available [here](#) and you can register [here](#) to attend. The in-person location for this meeting is W322.
 - November 28, 10:00am - 12:00pm
- **Remaining Fall Social Events:**
 - **Social 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)

Resource from Recent MRFA Event

- Event [notes from Panel on Supporting Students](#) from the Fall PD day (page 1 is a summary of key takeaways from this session)

Question of the Week

The MRFA continues work on its revitalization project in reviewing the Association's Mission, Vision, and Values. [To inform this initiative, please let us know how you would rank the following actions in terms of guiding the work of the Association over the next 5 years? \[ranked list with 1 being the most important\]](#)

- [Defending members' rights](#)
- [Enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion](#)
- [Advocating for PSE](#)
- [Defending tenure and academic freedom](#)
- [Maintaining high standards of professionalism](#)
- [Other...](#)

Last Week's Results

Few members responded to last week's question regarding experiences with submitting OH&S complaints. Responses included negative experiences in this process which did not meet expectations.

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 what actions the Association should prioritize in the coming years.](#)



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](#)