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MRFA Weekly Bulletin

January 16, 2023

Jan 18 1:00pm

Pre-GFC Meeting

The January GFC package is available [here](#), and the first pre-GFC meeting of 2023 is on **Wednesday, January 18, at 1:00pm** – join via [Google Meet](#) link, or attend in person to the Faculty Centre's Peggy Brydon Board Room (masking is required in-person)

Start or Join an MRFA Member Directed Group! - *Come to the Faculty Centre on Jan 20, 5:00 - 7:00pm to learn more.*

Member Directed Groups were initiated to facilitate member engagement in the Association on topics of interest. **Make your service more rewarding by focusing on what matters most to you!**

Current Member Directed Groups are listed to the right and related documents are provided below for more info. If you cannot attend this Friday, please call 403-512-9295 to discuss opportunities further.

Related Documents

- [Member Directed Group Policy](#)
- [Form to Request the Creation of a Member Directed Group](#)
- [MRFA Member Directed Groups – Approved list of Topics](#)

Current Groups:

- **Climate Change Group**
Lead Organizer and contact: Brian Nichols

- **Ad hoc Full-Time Lab Instructor Advisory Committee** Lead Organizer and Contact: Jennifer Owen

- **Indigenous Faculty Collective** Lead Organizer and Contact: Vicki Bouvier

- **2SLGBTQ+ Community**
– Lead Organizer and Contact: TBD (email edi@mrfa.net to have your name added)

No Meeting Thursdays - MRFA

The Association remains committed to no meeting Thursdays wherever possible. This was an initiative which MRU began in an attempt to block off space for faculty to have focused time for work away from meetings/service requirements. Though the initiative did not receive the required support across campus in order to be successful, the MRFA continues this practice in the hopes that it may be of some benefit for members.

MRU Updates:

Access to F-180 for Annual Reports: All new and existing FT faculty now have access to F-180 for annual reports. This includes all faculty who started in fall 2022 and Winter 2023. If you have any issues with F-180, please reach out to annualreports@mtroyal.ca

Payroll Transition Update: The University is still in the process of transitioning the payroll system and the next regular pay cycle, for those who did not opt for a payroll advance, will be on January 24, 2023. It has been noted in recent payroll information sessions that the new paystubs do not clearly identify the pay categories for faculty members. Payroll is currently looking into this to see if the job Information section of the paystub can indicate applicable steps. If you have any questions or concerns about the payroll transition please email payroll@mtroyal.ca

Faculty Checklist for Accommodated Exams

This resource has been developed by Accessibility services and is being shared with you for information.

See other information about supporting students from the Fall PD session [here](#).

View the Checklist

THE ACCOMMODATED EXAM PROCESS A Faculty Checklist

FACULTY PLAY A KEY ROLE IN ENSURING THAT THE ACCOMMODATED EXAM SERVICE GOES SMOOTHLY FOR YOUR STUDENTS AND YOURSELVES. HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.



CAUT Reminders

Survey for Post-Secondary Faculty and Researchers **** Deadline extension: January 27th, 2023. ****

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is launching its inaugural **State of the Post-Secondary Academic Profession Survey**. The survey will build longitudinal information about issues and needs faced by academic staff at Canadian universities and colleges. This data will help CAUT and its member associations advocate for members' interests.

[Respond to the Survey](#)

CAUT Awards - Call for Nominations

Please click on the linked images below for more information. **The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2023.**



CAUT Call for Nominations - Executive Board Positions

Nominations are being sought for the CAUT Executive Committee: President, Vice-President, Chair of the Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee, Chair of the Contract Academic Staff Committee, Co-Chair of the Equity Committee, Representative-at-large (Quebec), Representative-at-large (Aboriginal), Representative-at-large (Francophone), and Two Representatives-at-large (General). The deadline for submitting nominations is **March 1, 2023**.

Elections will take place during the CAUT Council meeting to be held in Ottawa, **April 20-23, 2023**. The nomination procedures, description of positions and terms of office, and CAUT's Release Time Policy are available on the [CAUT website](#). For information regarding release time for CAUT Executive Committee members, please consult the [CAUT Release Time Policy](#).

2023 MRFA Meeting and Event Schedule

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February 15, March 15, April 19, and May 17)

- January 31, 1:00–3:00 – **Regular Meeting**: Zoom - online only (registration and agenda will be available on Jan 17)
- February 17, 3:30 – 7:00pm: **Family Day Weekend Magic Show & Dance ([poster](#))**.
[Register Here](#)
- March 1, 10:00 – 12:00 – **Regular Meeting**: Zoom*
- April 6, 9:00 - 10:30am – **Regular Meeting**: Zoom (exception to no meeting Thursday as this is the day between classes/exams and there will be a special meeting for bylaw approval - quorum is 70.)
- April 24-25 - **Annual MRFA Spring Retreat**
- April 25-27: **Writing Residency** (details to follow)
- May 12, 9:30 – 1:30 – **MRFA Annual General Meeting**: location TBD and Zoom
- May 25, 11:00-1:00: **Member and Staff Appreciation BBQ** (registration not required)
- June 9, 12:00-7:30: **Recreational Day**

[View the MRFA Event Calendar](#)

Question of the Week

This Week's Question

Knowing that some of us are starting the semester already “exhausted,” rather than taking your time to get input we are taking the opportunity this week to provide members’ suggestions to you to help manage workload pressures...

Last Week's Results

76% of respondents to last week's question indicated that they did not have sufficient time to wrap up the fall semester, rest and recover, and prepare for the semester ahead. It was noted that many other PSIs started later in January and that starting the Winter semester at MRU a week later would be very helpful.

Tips from members to manage workload pressures:

- “Plan ahead of time. Complete course outlines for future courses in advance. Fine tune previous course handouts.”
- “I front loaded courses to the Fall (when the weather is getting worse!). This semester is easier, plus hopefully the weather is getting better!”
- “I have been trying to ensure that my Fall semester is fully wrapped up by around December 18 (final projects graded) so that I have a few days to change focus to the Winter semester. It doesn't always work, but it's helped a little.”
- “Make less assignments due at the end of the semester”
- “Refuse additional work, such as requests for service on MRU committees.”
- “Collectively fighting for more full-time positions and pathways for contract faculty to secure permanence”

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Send more workload management tips to be shared with colleagues



- [Lunch Service](#) W–F, 11:00am–2:00pm
- [Appetizers](#) available on Fridays 3:00 - 7:00pm

- Dinner Service available on request on Fridays 2:00 - 7:00pm
- Sign in your guests [online](#)
- In a hurry? Order ahead using the [MRFA Bistro Takeout Order Form](#)
- Send us your [Feedback](#)

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[Request a Meeting Room](#)



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