



**MRFA**  
MOUNT ROYAL  
FACULTY ASSOCIATION

## **MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD**

### **The Award**

MRFA Teaching Excellence Awards may be presented yearly to two MRFA faculty members, one full time and one Contract member, who have demonstrated sustained commitment to the development of teaching and learning at MRU.

The Award will consist of a framed certificate, a plaque in the Faculty Centre, and a monetary award, the amount to be approved by the Executive Board and as ratified by the membership in the annual MRFA Budget. The Awards will be presented at the Fall MRFA Tenure, Promotion, Permanency and Awards Celebration.

### **Eligibility**

1. All full-time tenured and tenurable MRFA faculty members who have completed at least three years of contributing to the learning environment at MRU are eligible.
2. All contract faculty who have taught or contributed to the learning environment in a credit area for at least six semesters (not necessarily consecutively) are eligible.
3. Any nominee must be a member in good standing of the MRFA.
4. Previous recipients of this award or of the Distinguished Faculty Award (full-time or contract) are not eligible to be nominated again for five years.

### **Criteria**

Nominees will demonstrate and provide evidence of excellence in areas that may include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- Teaching Excellence and Commitment
  - o Teaching and commitment recognized by both colleagues and students - Design and delivery of innovation in contributing to the learning environment - Demonstrated intellectual rigour and communication skills in the presentation of subject matter including lecture, labs, tutorials, and on-line elements
- Currency
  - o Evidence of constant refreshment and adjustment of philosophy and pedagogy as it relates to improving the learning environment
  - o Participation in PD activities related to teaching enhancement, as a presenter and/or participant
  - o Development of educational materials – lab manuals, modules, texts, study guides, audio-visuals
- Respectful Relationships with Students and Colleagues
  - o Availability for face-to-face interactions with students/faculty participants outside of class/workshops
  - o Sensitivity to student/faculty participant needs

- Motivating students to achieve high standards in their learning/faculty participants to achieve high standards in their teaching
- Mentoring, honours and/or research supervision
- Flexibility and Diversity in Teaching/Learning Approaches
  - Demonstrated flexibility in the development of workshops, courses and curriculum for specific audiences
  - Willingness and ability to teach various types and levels of courses (where applicable) or work with faculty at various career stages
  - Development of an innovation, integrated into the total learning process, which has had a practical outcome that improved teaching, learning, curriculum design, and/or assessment
- Outreach
  - Giving guest lectures, running seminars, conducting workshops or teaching courses at other universities or before professional groups
  - Involvement in the community and with outside groups that relate to discipline

## Nomination Process

Nominations may be made by faculty colleagues, students, and alumni. Nominations are to be made on the form entitled Nomination Form for the MRFA Teaching Excellence Award (available in the MRFA Office or on-line at [mrfa.net/awards](http://mrfa.net/awards)). All nominations must be supported by three individuals, at least two of whom must be students/faculty participants, and all nominations must be accompanied by three additional statements of support as outlined on the nomination form.

Calls for Nominations will be sent out annually in the Fall and the deadline for nominations is the Thursday prior to the Winter Reading Week. Nomination acceptance forms and related materials must be submitted to the Awards Committee by the third Monday in April.

Nominations may be submitted to the MRFA (W315) or by email to [office@mrfa.net](mailto:office@mrfa.net).

## Selection Process

The MRFA Awards Committee shall screen the nominations and select the winners based on principles and guidelines established and approved by the Executive Board.

The MRFA Awards Committee will consist of:

- A member appointed by the Executive Board to serve as Chair
- One member of the MRFA Faculty Evaluation Committee appointed by FEC
- One member from the MRFA Professional Development Committee appointed by PDC
- One student representative to be appointed by SAMRU
- One faculty alumni appointed by the chair of the Awards Committee
- Two previous winners of the award, one contract and one full time member, appointed by the chair of the Awards Committee

Should any member of the Awards Committee be nominated they shall recuse themselves from the process. Should any member of the Executive Board be nominated they shall abstain from voting when the Executive Board approves award selections. Their abstention shall be recorded in the minutes of the

(If no appropriate nominations are received, the award does not have to be awarded.)