

MRSAY! Newsletter – November 2014

In this Edition:

- 1) Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- 2) Negotiations Update
- 3) MRU Coalition
- 4) MRU's 2015-2016 Budgeting Process
- 5) Behind The Scenes At An Executive Meeting
- 6) EDT Dependant/Spousal applications due Nov 30
- 7) MRSA PD Day: Save the Date!
- 8) Monster Bash
- 9) Informal Meeting with Dr. Docherty
- 10) Karen's Korner

AGM Wednesday Nov 26 11:30-1pm

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! We encourage all staff to attend. The Human Resources Department has been notified of our intentions and an email to Managers/Deans/Chairs and Supervisors will go out shortly requesting your release time.

Article 7.5 of the Collective Agreement states, *"Time off with pay shall be granted up to one (1) hour to Association members for the purpose of attending the Annual General Meeting provided this occurs during the employee's normal working hours. This is subject to the operational requirements of the University."*

The Association held a General Meeting on June 10, 2014 from 11:30-12:30 utilizing half (1/2) of the allotted one (1) hour time period. November 26, 2014 we will use the other half (1/2) hour for our meeting (the rest of the time will be the member's lunch hour).

As discussed and recommended by the membership we will have two meetings a year of this nature rather than one:

1. an Annual General Meeting to share the financial audit; and
2. a General Meeting to introduce the new Executive Board and present the upcoming budget.

The goal is to increase opportunity for the membership to be informed and engaged in the affairs of the Association.

The MRSA auditor, Debbie Walker, will present the 2014 audit and answer any questions. The Negotiations Committee will also be providing a PowerPoint presentation regarding the new additions to the Collective Agreement and an update on the arbitration process. All AGM documents

will be emailed out one (1) week prior to the meeting, and will be displayed within the PowerPoint presentations.

Coffee and water will be provided, please feel free to bring a lunch.

Negotiation Update

As it was previously mentioned, the Interest Based Arbitration dates have been scheduled and confirmed for January 26th and 27th, 2015; the Negotiations Team is meeting with the Association lawyer to begin the planning process.

Coalition

MRSA, MRFA and SAMRU met with the candidates running for the Wildrose Party, the Alberta Party and the Progressive Conservative Party for the by-election in the Elbow riding to discuss their platforms and find out their policies for post secondary institutions.

Representatives from the three associations will also be scheduling meetings with the MLAs in the Calgary area to raise awareness of the challenges facing MRU and other PSEs in the province.

MRU's 2015-2016 Budgeting Process

The 2015-2016 budget development process is about to get underway. The Budget Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, November 5th for the first time this year. The MRSA is represented by Baset Zarrug, MRSA; Debra Scott, Financial Services; and Suman Panta, Research Services.

Behind The Scenes at an Executive Meeting

The MRSA had the pleasure of meeting Grant Sommerfeld, the Associate Vice President of Physical Resources, recently. Grant joined our MRU family in June of this year and has a wealth of knowledge along with a passion for "going green". Grant spent a lively time with the executive explaining his role in MRU, and some of his ideas for making our campus a safer and greener location.

Grant has created a wonderful informative Physical Resources Department Blog called <http://blogs.mtroyal.ca/physicalresources/>. The blog is an inside look at what Physical Resources does for MRU, and has lots of photos and contact information too. It is also where you can see Grant's personal approach for trying to solve our problem with our abundance of garbage. Did you know that by the end of each day more than 300 garbage cans in MRU will be overflowing with single use coffee cups and paper food containers?

The Grounds Department was kept extra busy in September because of the snowstorm that caused the loss of 120 trees on campus. These trees were turned into mulch which will all be used at some point on campus. Newly purchased trees will soon be finding homes around MRU, so keep an eye out for the Green Ash, Swedish Aspen, Maydays and Hawthorne trees.

Did you know that Huffington Post described MRU as one of the most beautiful university campuses in Canada? With 18 km of pathway and 78 acres of space for Grounds to maintain, it is no wonder the Staff is always busy! Remember to smile and thank a Grounds person next time you see one :)

EDT Applications

The Dependant/Spousal Bursary applications are due November 30, 2014. How do I apply? Go to www.mrustaff.ca. Click on "HOME", information is in the post on the bottom right OR go to the "Member Resources" OR "FAQs" tab to find the application.

MRSA PD Day: Save the Date!

The MRSA Professional Development Day is back! Please save Thursday, May 14, 2015 in your calendars for the return of the MRSA PD Day. We had such wonderful feedback from our last PD event held at the Zoo that we decided to go back!!! The Safari Lodge has been redone beautifully and we are very excited to return there to see and be a part of the Zoo renewal.

MRU President David Docherty encourages the Staff to go offsite for this important PD day so that the focus is where it needs to be...on professional growth. It is way too easy to be sidetracked by your daily work while on campus.

Watch your emails and the MRSA website (www.mrustaff.ca) for more details.

MONSTER BASH

Thank you to everyone who was involved with planning, helping and serving at the Monster Bash. 250 people enjoyed chili, buns, pumpkin pie, ice cream and Pepsi drinks Friday, Oct 31 in the Recreation Concourse. The costumes were amazing and the entertainment was priceless! The MRSA "Skeleton

Crew” was happy to be part of the event. Congratulations to Kim Marchand for winning the 50/50 draw.



MRU President Dr. David Docherty Monthly “Informal Meeting with the Staff”

Nov 14 from 10-11am in the Staff Lounge-W305

Come on down for the monthly MRU update with the President. Always interesting and informative - David makes sure each session ends on a positive high note, usually with an uplifting story. Bring yourself, your mug and a co-worker, some questions and be prepared to enjoy some Timmy’s coffee and Timbits.

Karen’s Korner



Remembrance Day 2014

What will YOU do to show your gratitude for your life in Canada?

Our Staff Lounge is showing our pride with the displaying of our Canadian Flag as well as the flags of our various forces and the famous "In Flanders Field" poem. Drop by to pick up a Canadian flag lapel pin and to read the November Legion magazine. There is a pull-out showing the last 100 years of Canadian troop's involvement.

Below is from Veterans Affairs Canada/Remembrance/2014 Postcard for Peace

I will...

- Thank a Veteran
- Visit a Cenotaph
- Wear a Poppy
- Attend a Ceremony
- Observe a minute of silence
- Remember on Facebook

Did you know that Canada's highest medal the "Victoria Cross" has only been given out to 94 deserving Canadians? It is typically the best known medal in Canada, and was first given out by Queen Victoria in 1856 "for most conspicuous bravery or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy."