



## **Professional Affairs Committee (PAC)**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report**

**May 13, 2011**

I am pleased to submit this annual report for your perusal at the successful completion of this academic year as your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. I have reported during the academic year as well, so you may have seen parts of the report before.

As Mount Royal is working towards its vision of becoming a premier undergraduate university, it is important to address emerging professional needs of the faculty which are generally not addressed adequately by other avenues in the university. The Professional Affairs Committee (PAC) which I am chairing is focusing on these emerging needs with a vision to foster excellence in the Mount Royal Community. PAC's complete vision statement is given below.

*"The Professional Affairs Committee will foster professional excellence within the MRFA community.*

*Professional excellence encompasses the ability to model leadership behaviours and collegiality, to take an active role in academic governance, and to act in accordance with the MRFA bylaws and the processes established in the Collective Agreement."*

Structurally, PAC consists of eight (8) members: the Second Vice-President (Chair) and First Vice-President (ex-officio); 3 members (2 must be tenured) for 2 years elected in even-numbered years, 3 members (2 must be tenured) for 2 years elected in odd-numbered years. The composition of the current PAC is given in a table which can be found at the end of this report.

In terms of its work scope, the areas of interest for the PAC include: academic governance, parliamentary procedures, faculty leadership, conflict resolution and mediation, labour relations and professional conduct, assisting new faculty through participation in the ISP and other programs. In light of this framework, PAC's activities for this year included the following:

- In August 2010, sent a Message of welcome to ISP 2010 on behalf of the PAC with an invitation to attend PAC's September 1, 2010 workshop on Robert's Rules of Order.
- On Wednesday, September 1, 2010, a very successful workshop on the Robert's Rules of Order was organized. The workshop was facilitated by Robert James, PRP and had a special focus on GFC. Based on evaluations, the workshop was very well received

by the faculty who attended (about 40) the workshop. Gerry Cross, MRFA President, also spoke briefly at the workshop about the importance such workshops. This year's workshop had a greater emphasis on practice for which PAC had developed some MRU based scenarios. A complete report of this event is available on the MRFA website (<http://mrfa.net>). The workshop was co-sponsored by the MRU Provost & VP Academic's office.

- PAC Collaborated with the Social Committee by sponsoring the program titled *Meet and Greet Pizza Party* - Sept 17, 2010. The purpose of this activity was to introduce new faculty to the MRFA and the PAC.
- PAC also organized individual meetings with members of the ISP-2010 to support and learn more about the new faculty.
- Most of what the MRFA accomplishes as a professional organization is the result of its members' involvement with the MRFA. Therefore it is essential to give new faculty an opportunity to connect with and get to know the MRFA committees. To serve this purpose, a program titled *A Committee (Af)fair* was organized on Friday, March 25, 2011 at the Faculty Centre. Though the program was of a special interest to new faculty but it was open to all faculty. The program was attended by about sixty faculty members. The program was found very useful by the participants as reflected by the evaluation conducted at the end of the program. A complete report of this event is available on the MRFA website (<http://mrfa.net>).
- At the time preparation of this report, PAC is actively engaged in organizing two important workshops dealing with the dynamics of human interaction in the university setting. The first all day workshop titled *Communication, Conflict, and Change in the Academic Workplace: Pattern for Success in an evolving Landscape* is taking place on Thursday, May 5, 2011. This workshop will be presented by Bill Warters from Wayne State University, USA. The second workshop titled *Why can't we all just get along? Incivility and hostility within academia* will be presented by Loreleigh Keashly from Wayne State University, USA and is planned for Monday, May 9, 2011. The organization of these workshops is a new initiative and a lot of work has gone into their preparation. PAC is looking forward to success of these workshops. The reports for these workshops will be placed on the MRFA website when they are ready. Both workshops have been co-sponsored by the MRU Provost & VP Academic's office.
- As 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, following is brief account of some of my other activities:
  - I am a member of the Diversity Committee (DC). A report of the Diversity Committee has been submitted separately by its Chair Cynthia Gallop.
  - I also participated and contributed to the work of the MRFA executive.

- Science & Technology Scholarship & Awards ceremony - Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010 - presented MRFA's award.
- Arts Scholarship & Awards ceremony Tuesday, November 30, 2010 - presented MRFA's award.
- Participated in the MRFA executive meeting with the Grant MacEwan University Faculty Association. The meeting was conducted via video conferencing on November 19, 2010 and focused on matters of mutual interest, for example, system of rank and promotion, bicameral governance, online faculty evaluation, and class scheduling system.
- Participated in the MRFA executive's departmental visits to connect with faculty and get an understanding of existing faculty concerns and issues and respond to them appropriately.
- MRFA made a submission regarding the new MRU Academic Plan to The Academic Planning Committee of MRU. On Wednesday, February 9, 2011 joined the MRFA team which discussed the MRFA submission with the Academic Planning Committee.
- Participated in the MRFA meetings with the candidates for deans of the Faculties of Health & Community Studies, the Bissett School of Business and Science and technology.
- Participated in the MRFA meetings with candidates for AVP, Enrolment.

I would like to close by extending my sincere thanks to all members of the Professional Affairs Committee, the Diversity Committee, the MRFA executive, and especially Gerry Cross, MRFA President for their unwavering support. I also would like to thank all MRFA members for their trust and support. The report would remain incomplete without thanking the administrative staff (Chantelle and Darlene) for being supportive in many different ways.

I hope you find this report helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Qasim Syed

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

**Professional affairs Committee(PAC) 2010-2011**

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