

MRU Faculty Retirees' Association
Annual General Meeting Agenda
Thursday April 23, 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 pm MDT
(Room 1 of the Faculty Centre and Google Meet)

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Approval of the Agenda

Reports

1. President's Report – Attachment 1

New Business

1. Approval of Changes to the Constitution – Attachments 2
2. Discussion Items
 - a. What do members want from a retiree association?
 - b. What types of events are members interested in?
 - c. Is there anything else the association should be doing?
3. Nominations – Attachment 3
 - a. Vice-President
 - b. Secretary/Treasurer
 - c. Newsletter Editor
 - d. Director-at-Large who is located outside of Calgary
 - e. Directors-at-Large

Other Business

President's Report

You may attend our Annual General Meeting either in person or online via Google Meet. More active members are needed to further develop the retirees' association. Please encourage retired faculty whom you are in contact with to attend.

Review of this Year's Events

We decided to organize fewer events this year because attendance was low last year. This year's events were more successful:

1. October: An Italian dinner hosted by Marlene Kingsmith at her home was fully subscribed and greatly enjoyed by all. Thank you, Marlene.
2. November: Lunch in the Faculty Centre followed by my presentation on Road Scholar's *The Best of the Mountain Kingdoms: Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan* trip that I had taken in October was well-attended. [Road Scholar](#) trips are designed to be educational, and this trip provided insights that I don't think I would have gotten otherwise.
3. January: We considered the MRFAs 60th Anniversary Panel to be one of our events because we had been asked to invite retired faculty members, since the *Looking Back, Looking Forward* themed event would be more meaningful with retirees present. Several retirees attended but, sadly, they almost outnumbered the current faculty present. The recording of the event is available [here](#).
4. March: A talk on AI-enabled fraud by an MRU Associate Professor of Computer Science was poorly attended. However, we hope to have more presentations by current faculty in the future.
5. Carolyn Sterenberg has prepared a Retirees' Association presentation for the MRFA Spring Retreat. The MRFA intends to distribute the "Retirement Passport", which she developed for the presentation, to retiring faculty members in the future.
6. See the next newsletter for upcoming MRFA events in May and a walk in Dale Hodges Park on June 4.

The College and University Retiree Associations of Canada

CURAC organizes an annual conference, shares information among faculty retiree associations through its [website](#), newsletters, and an events calendar, and offers insurance, travel, and health services through its affinity partners.

Annual Conference

This year's conference will be hosted by the Simon Fraser University Retirees Association. Its theme is *Making Connections* and the sessions on May 21 and May 22 can be attended via Zoom for a \$50 [registration fee](#).

One of these sessions is a Newsletter Editors panel. The SFU Retirees Association, which is participating in this panel, produces outstanding [newsletters](#).

Information Sharing

The Events Calendar at the bottom of the CURAC home page contains online presentations posted by the Later Life Learning Committee. The University of Calgary Retirees Association shares notices of their monthly lectures. Members of our association are welcome to attend, either in person or online at 2 pm MT on the second Wednesday of the month.

CURAC has recently launched a newsletter, which contains articles submitted by retiree association newsletter editors.

Affinity Partners

An affinity partner is a business that offers services to members of CURAC member associations, sometimes at a discounted price. CURAC receives a commission on these sales, and rebates 50% to the purchaser's retiree association. These rebates are a significant source of revenue for some retiree associations.

You can find links to the affinity partners under *Member Benefits* on the CURAC home page. They are:

- Collette – guided tours
- Trip Merchant – organizes and brokers tours for membership-based organizations
- Entente Education Canada (formerly RTO/ERO) – extended health and travel insurance for retired PSE employees, which may be better for some than the Alberta Retired Teachers Association plans
- Belairdirect – travel, automobile, and home insurance
- Specsavers – eyeglasses and contact lenses
- HearingLife – hearing aids and noise reduction earplugs

See our [October 2025 newsletter](#) for a summary of the benefits.

If you make a purchase from one of the affinity partners, please identify yourself as a member of the Mount Royal University Faculty Retirees' Association.

CURAC's Member Associations

Links to member association websites are listed under the *About* tab on the CURAC [website](#). One of the Executive Committee's undertakings this year was for each member to review several of these websites and, in some cases, to communicate with the association by email. We found that many of these associations are vibrant, offering a wide range of activities and services for their members, while a few are struggling and have vacant executive positions or a website that has not been updated for several years. We have yet to complete our review to determine whether we should incorporate any of what we learned into our association.

Our Photography Exhibition

Much of the Executive Committee's meeting time this year was used to plan for the photography exhibition. There will be about 70 photographs in the exhibition. Some are of professional quality, whereas others simply document interesting places that the photographer has travelled to.

You are all invited to the opening reception from 3:30 – 5:00 pm Thursday, April 30 on the fourth floor of the MRU Library. The photographs will be on display until Sunday, May 31. We hope to draw many faculty, staff, and students to the exhibition with posters at the library's entrance, in the Faculty Centre, and elsewhere around the campus.

Meeting with the Provost

I met with the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, Chad London, in early September to apprise him of our association. Prior to this, Melanie Rogers, Vice-President, Community Engagement, who helped with establishing our rudimentary [website](#), which is hosted on the university's servers, and with organizing the photography exhibition had been our only contact in the university's administration.

In a survey conducted by CURAC in 2023, retired non-academic staff were eligible for membership in 52% of the retiree associations that responded and retired senior administrators were eligible for membership in 74%. In Alberta, MacEwan University's retiree association includes retired faculty, staff and administrators, the University of Calgary transitioned from faculty-only to all retirees in October 2022, and the universities of Alberta and Lethbridge are faculty-only.

Last year, our Executive decided that we ought to explore the possibility of expanding our association to include retired staff, exempt staff, and administrators. I met with the President of the Mount Royal Staff Association in January 2025 to discuss this and to propose how we could approach senior administration for support. Their Executive considered the proposal and decided that they did not want to participate in developing a retirees' association.

I told Chad, who would prefer an all-retirees association, that I thought this would require an initiative by the university. I am personally committed to a faculty-only retiree association, perhaps with an honorary membership for other retirees, which is supported by the MRFA, rather than the university. If we were to become part of a larger association, I would advocate for retired faculty to be a recognized sub-association within it.

Other Activities

I took on the duties of the Newsletter Editor this year because the position is vacant.

I have attended the CURAC AGM and Annual Conference for the past three years (at the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Waterloo, and McGill University) and have begun to get involved in the national organization. I am presently on the Awards Committee and post the notices in their Events Calendar.

Wishing you all the best,
Gerry Cross,
President, Mount Royal University Faculty Retirees' Association

Constitution of the Mount Royal University Faculty Retirees' Association

This is an interim constitution which will be in effect until the number of retired members active in the association is sufficient to support a full-fledged retirees' association with an elected executive organizing events of interest to members, publishing a newsletter, and managing a website, and which might have a modest annual membership fee.

Objectives

The objectives of the association are to:

- provide opportunities for members to maintain contact with former colleagues, the Mount Royal Faculty Association (MRFA), and the university
- plan, advertise, and host in-person and online social gatherings, recreational activities, and lectures
- facilitate regular informal opportunities for connection and conversation
- organize at least one in-person event in Calgary annually
- advocate for members on issues of concern
- provide advice to faculty members who are approaching retirement
- collaborate with the retiree associations of other Alberta universities
- share information about the activities of other faculty retiree organizations, and
- participate in the work of the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC).

Membership

All current and former Mount Royal University (MRU) faculty, both full-time and contract, who are retired and have completed a minimum of two years' service as academic staff at Mount Royal University are eligible for membership in the Retirees' Association.

Membership in the Retirees' Association is obtained by being automatically added to the Association's mailing list upon retirement from MRU or subsequently, upon request, by the Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer shall liaise annually with the MRFA Office to get a list of retiring MRFA members.

Membership may be terminated at any time by opting out of the mailing list.

Executive Committee

Until active membership is large enough to fully develop a retirees' association, an interim Executive Committee will strive to accomplish the association's objectives to the extent possible. During this period, administrative support will be provided by the MRFA.

The Executive Committee consists of:

- a President elected for a two-year term effective July 1 of odd-numbered years
- a Past President, an ex-officio position filled for a one-year term by an outgoing President
- a Vice-President elected for a two-year term effective July 1 of even-numbered years
- a Secretary/Treasurer elected for a two-year term effective July 1 of even-numbered years

- a Newsletter Editor elected for a two-year term effective July 1 of odd-numbered years
- a Director-at-Large, who is located outside of Calgary, elected for a two-year term effective July 1 of even-numbered years; and
- as many other Directors-at-Large as are deemed appropriate, appointed upon application by the Executive Committee for a two-year term.

Elections

- Elections shall be held annually in April. Newly elected officers shall attend meetings of the Executive Committee until their terms begin on July 1.
- All current members of the Association shall receive an electronic ballot.
- Officers shall be elected by a majority vote.

Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice in each of the fall and winter academic semesters. Quorum shall be three members of the committee, including the President or Vice-President.

Minutes will be taken for all Executive Committee meetings by the Secretary/Treasurer, or designate, and shall be submitted to the MRFA for filing in its database.

Resources

- The MRFA will support the Retirees' Association through access to the Faculty Centre with the same provisions as for Regular members of the Association (i.e., the committee has full access to booking the Faculty Centre as outlined in the MRFA Policies and Procedures Manual).
- The MRFA will continue to provide administrative support until the Retirees' Association is firmly established.
- Moving forward, the Retirees' Association may begin to collect dues from members to support the work of the association.

MRU Faculty Retirees' Association

Executive Committee Nomination Form

Nominations must either be submitted to office@mrfa.net by **April 23, 2026** or at the Annual General Meeting. Voting will take place by electronic ballot from Monday, April 27 to Friday, May 1.

Members are encouraged to nominate themselves for a position. If a member wishes to nominate another member, the procedure is to send a completed nomination form to that member, who may accept the nomination by forwarding the form to office@mrfa.net.

Nominee: _____

Nominee's Department or Discipline: _____

Nominee's City of Residence: _____

Nominator (if not self-nominated): _____

	<i>Position</i>	<i>Term</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vice-President</i>	2026-2028
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	2026-2028
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	2026-2027
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Director-at-Large, located outside of Calgary</i>	2026-2028
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Director-at-Large</i>	2026-2028