

For Immediate Release

Dalhousie Labour Situation Remains Uncertain as Dalhousie Administration Rejects Conciliation Board Recommendations

(December 20, 2020 – Halifax, NS) The Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) Executive Committee has formally accepted the recommendations of the Conciliation Board that was established to assist negotiations between the DFA and the Dalhousie Board of Governors.

“To our surprise and disappointment, the Dalhousie Board of Governors has rejected the report of the Conciliation Board,” says DFA President Dr. David Westwood. “The DFA leadership believes the recommendations in the report are reasonable and do not favour one party over the other. We see no reason why the recommendations should not form the basis of a new collective agreement. At the outset, both parties agreed to this process as a way to resolve disagreement.”

The report, dated December 16, 2020 contains several non-binding recommendations.

“By rejecting the recommendations, the Board is keeping faculty, students and staff at Dalhousie in a position of uncertainty for the winter term,” says Westwood. “This is entirely inconsistent with messaging from administration encouraging staff and students to rest and recover over the December break.”

Both parties have reached out to Conciliation Officer Peter Lloyd to convene a meeting of the two bargaining teams to try to reach a tentative agreement. Until that meeting takes place, both sides have committed to no strike or lock-out. Due to the Holiday season, it is not clear how soon the teams will be able to meet.

“We assumed bargaining would be concluded by now so that everyone could focus on the Winter semester. Our Members and Dalhousie students do not need this additional uncertainty,” notes Westwood. “We remain committed to reaching a resolution that is based on reason.”

In October, the DFA membership delivered a strike mandate of over 90%. That mandate is still in effect if an agreement cannot be reached.

The Dalhousie Faculty Association represents 950 professors, instructors, librarians and professional counsellors at Dalhousie University. As a volunteer-based organization, we advocate for the rights of our members and work to protect and advance the academic integrity of the University.

-30-

Media Contact:

Catherine Wall, DFA Communications Officer

1.902.489.0270

Catherine.Wall@dal.ca