



Dalhousie Faculty Association

May 21, 2020

Sent via email deep.saini@dal.ca

Dr. Deep Saini,
President
Dalhousie University

Dear Dr. Saini,

In your message to the Dalhousie community on May 20, 2020, you announced that “**The fall term will be predominantly online, with limited exceptions.**” In making this announcement, you have committed to a significant change in the working conditions of the Members of the Dalhousie Faculty Association who are the individuals responsible for making the changes to courses that are necessary to ensure high academic standards in the online environment.

Our Members consistently deliver the highest quality academic experiences for Dalhousie students, and this will continue despite the significant disruptions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you can appreciate that it is not a trivial matter to redesign courses to an entirely different mode of delivery, and that no amount of technology or technical support can replace the academic expertise, time, and work necessary to ensure that high standards of pedagogy continue.

All of our Members are currently working from their homes, and many have assumed additional responsibilities related to providing care for dependents and partners. Your commitment to an online term, while arguably necessary given public health considerations, has placed a tremendous burden of work and additional responsibility on DFA Members at a time when they are already stretched to the maximum. For this reason, the DFA Nominees to the Association Board Committee will be pressing for the negotiation of a Letter of Understanding which will contain, among other things, proposals for the formal recognition of the work associated with developing, and offering, online courses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Westwood'.

David A. Westwood, PhD
President, Dalhousie Faculty Association

- c. Laura Neals, Board co-Chair ABC
- Frank Harvey, Board ABC nominee
- Silvia Behrens-Kelleher, Board ABC nominee
- Tim Juckes, DFA co-Chair, ABC
- Barbara MacLennan, DFA ABC nominee
- Kevin Hewitt, Chair of Senate