

NEWS YOU CAN USE

January 2022

President's Message: Winter Term Update

Dr. Tara Perrot, DFA President, 2021-2022

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As we get into another busy term, I wanted to touch base to say a belated Happy New Year. I hope that each of you found time to rest and rejuvenate as much as possible during the break. Since the term began, the DFA has been trying to get as much information as possible about the details for how this term will look for our Members. Despite that, questions and concerns remain and I want to assure all of you that we continue to seek clarity from the administration and will send updates as we have them.

You have all had a chance to review the memo provided by the Provost regarding winter term and have received memos from the Deans of your respective Faculties. While we are being told by the administration to return to in-person delivery of courses and other services, there remain students and faculty that are hesitant to do this. At a meeting between the DFA and the Provost on January 18, a

BAC Report

The Board has released a [draft operating budget plan for 2022-2023](#) and is inviting feedback until **February 16, 2022**. Budgets are about priorities, and it is important that individual academic staff members share their thoughts about the priorities revealed in this budget exercise.

We are encouraging our Members to forward their own individual thoughts and opinions directly to the Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, Dalhousie Provost Frank Harvey.

This week, we will circulate an email to our Members outlining our observations and comments for your reference as you review the draft budget. Also please watch our social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) @dalfacultyassoc over the coming weeks as we draw attention to the budgeting process.

number of these issues were discussed. We advocated for continued flexibility in course delivery this term citing the advice from both Dalhousie administration and public health officials that 'those that can work remotely should be encouraged to continue doing so'. Similar to the Fall Term, we are encouraging Members that are uncomfortable with being in-person to have a conversation with their Chair/Head/Director/Dean and to let the DFA know if concerns are not taken seriously. Members that have a medical reason for not wanting to be in-person can seek accommodation through Dalhousie's Office of Accessible Employment.

For some students and faculty, however, the return to in-person activities is welcome as long as it can be done as safely as possible. With respect to safety, [we communicated to members this past week regarding the latest information on masking](#). At present, our requests for access to masks at the Board's expense have been ignored. (As stated in the COVID Letter of Understanding, signed in April 2021 and forming part of our Collective Agreement:

“Members who are required to have in person contact with students, other faculty and/or staff shall be provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment, at the Board’s expense.)

Another potential issue with returning to in-person activities is how to deal with the potentially large number of students that don’t feel comfortable going to class or get ill and can’t attend. The Provost reiterated what he said during the Fall term – course instructors are not expected to teach a hybrid class unless that is what they choose to do, and this is consistent with the messaging from Deans. For example, the Faculty of Science has stated the following:

- Course instructors are NOT expected to accommodate students who do not return to campus and cannot therefore participate in in-person course activities. Such students may contact an advisor for options and may choose to withdraw from the course if they wish. These students may be advised to submit a ***waiver of academic regulations form*** requesting a back-dated withdrawal (until the end of January).

Unfortunately, this will put a lot of our Members in a difficult position and there will be pressure from students. We urge you to reach out to the DFA in this situation.

We also encourage you to press your Chair/Head/Director/Dean to share the details of staffing in the event of instructor illness and absence due to COVID. Again, reach out to the DFA if you have concerns.

Bargaining Update

Just before the holidays, we confirmed the members of DFA’s 2022 Bargaining Team. They are: David Wallbridge as Chief Negotiator; Stefanie Colombo, Animal Science and Aquaculture; Patti Doyle-Bedwell, Open Learning and Career Development; Katherine Fierlbeck, Political Science; Tim Juckes, Psychology and Neuroscience; Shelley McKibbin, Kellogg Health Sciences Library; Barbara MacLennan, DFA Professional Officer; and Lynn Purves, DFA Administrative Officer. In February, we will introduce the Chief Negotiator and DFA Members to you via short videos sent to your inbox. Over the coming weeks, we will begin consultation with our Members.

Acadia Faculty Declares Feb 1 Strike Deadline

The Acadia University Faculty Association (AUFA) has set a strike deadline of February 1. As noted by AUFA President Andrew Biro on the AUFA website, “the Board’s team hasn’t responded to most of our proposals. If it’s true that they value faculty, which they keep asserting in their communications, then it’s time they start working with us to negotiate an acceptable contract.”

For info, visit <https://www.acadiafaculty.ca/> and we will also keep you updated on our Twitter account @dalfacultyassoc.

DFA Donation to Support CUEFA Strike

The DFA Executive Committee approved a \$1,000 donation to support strike efforts of Concordia University of Edmonton Faculty Association (CUEFA). CUEFA members went on strike on January 4, making history as the first Alberta faculty association to take job action. DFA extends a special recognition to Executive member Dominic Silvio, Killam Library, who flew out at his own expense to join the picket line and show his support. Over 1350 people and organizations from across Canada sent messages to the university administration to put the interests of “students and staff before profit”, and a student-run petition gained more than 500 signatories supporting the faculty. The membership voted

to ratify a new collective agreement on January 15, 2022. Please visit the [CUEFA website](#) for more information.

DFA Websites Launched

We have recently revamped our website at www.dfa.ns.ca – have a look at some of the new features and please note that if you want access to Executive Committee Meeting Minutes or information discussed at our General Meetings, contact DFA Communications Officer Catherine.Wall@dal.ca for the password. *(The Members only section has been removed, and confidential information is now on password protected pages.)*

We also launched a [small site designed for the public](#) and broader Dalhousie community. Each month we will feature a DFA Member. This month, take a moment to read about [Laurel Schut](#), instructor in Dalhousie's College of Sustainability. If you would like to be featured on our website, please email DFA Communications Officer Catherine.Wall@dal.ca. It is easy to participate – we just need a photo and email answers to a few questions.

DFA Hiring a Professional Officer

DFA is hiring a Professional Officer. Deadline for applications is January 31, 2022 with a start date of March 2022. If you know anyone who would be interested in applying, please send them to dfa.ns.ca – a link to the job ad can be found in the *Did You Know?* section on the home page.

Robert S. Rodger Lecture Series – Call for Nominations

We are preparing for the 4th Dr. Robert S. Rodger Lecture Series. Introduced in 2018, the lecture series was established in honour of Bob Rodger who led the certification drive for DFA back in 1978. Suggestions for speakers are welcome. More information and the recommendation form can be found [here](#). Deadline for recommendations is February 3, 2022.



Mary Brooks Joins Order of Canada

In late December 2021, Dr. Mary Brooks, professor emerita in the Rowe School of Business, was named as a Member of the Order of Canada for being an internationally renowned scholar in the field of marine transportation, performance and supply chain management. Congratulations to Mary, a long-time Member of the DFA. Mary has received several notable awards throughout her career, including: National Associate, U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Onassis Prize in Shipping, Women's Executive Network: Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada and Canada-US Fulbright Scholar. *(photo and information adapted from dal.ca)*

For comments and feedback, please contact Catherine.Wall@dal.ca

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