

Terms of Reference

DFA Collegial Governance Committee

As a union representing academic staff at Dalhousie University, the DFA is committed to the premise, articulated by CAUT that “the scholarly community’s work is the source of an academic institution’s value to society.” Robust collegial governance is critical to the effective and high-quality operations of the university on a day-to-day basis.

Purpose:

- Clarify principles and best practices for supporting collegial governance across Dalhousie University;
- Support an informed and engaged membership in helping maintain and strengthen norms of collegial governance;
- Make recommendations to the DFA Executive Committee in pursuit of these objectives.

Composition:

- The committee shall normally consist of at least three members and normally not more than eight, with some flexibility on numbers to adapt to changing demands.
- The committee shall elect its own chair or co-chairs.
- The DFA president shall serve on the committee, ex officio.
- The DFA Executive shall make appointments to the committee, normally for two year terms, with renewal at the discretion of the Executive.

Mandate and activities:

The Committee will guide its activities with the following core principles:

- a. The Collective Agreement is the touchstone for the DFA’s approach to collegial governance, while recognizing the importance of the Dalhousie statutes and collegially approved policies.
- b. Collegial governance writ large is the focus of the committee's activities.
- c. Action, organizing, and education are the primary ways for supporting academic self-governance through the collegium.

Activities that the committee may undertake will include, but are not limited to:

- a. Support organizing within existing governance bodies, especially the Senate. This may include, for example, providing recommendations for the development of a faculty caucus in Senate.
- b. Explore approaches for educating/training members on how to engage effectively in governance bodies, from unit-level committees to faculty councils to Senate and other university-level committees (e.g., senior academic administrative appointment committees).
- c. Develop short primer documents, as well as regular workshops and forums.
- d. Review relevant external sources, such as CAUT materials on governance and peer-reviewed scholarship on collegial governance.

- e. Provide recommendations to the DFA Executive with regard to forging connections with other faculty associations in NS and beyond, as well as facilitate deeper relationships with other faculty unions, and provide recommendations to the DFA Executive with regard to engaging with government at the provincial and federal level.

Reporting

- The Collegial Governance Committee is a committee of the Executive. It may therefore make recommendations to the Executive.
- The Committee members should be listed as per Article 10 of the By-laws. The Committee shall also provide an annual report to the DFA membership, providing information on its activities and ongoing issues.