

Dalhousie Faculty Association Calls on the Board of Governors to Reject Tuition Fee Hikes and Cuts to Teaching and Research

Today, Dalhousie students are gathering in the Studley Quad to protest tuition fee hikes facing Dalhousie students again this year.

The Dalhousie Board of Governors is scheduled to vote this afternoon on a proposed 3 per cent tuition increase for 2018-2019. (A proposed cut of 1.5 per cent to faculty and service units budgets will be voted on in June.) The student protest takes place at 2:30 pm, before the Board of Governors meeting convenes at 3:00 pm in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

“If Dalhousie is to continue attracting top-level students and faculty, tuition fee hikes and faculty budget cuts must come to an end,” says Darren Abramson, President of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA). “Year after year, the administration projects a budget shortfall and uses that to justify tuition increases and cuts to academic budgets. Yet year after year, Dalhousie ends up with a healthy surplus, often more than \$20 million. Where is the money going?”

It isn’t going to teaching and research, the core mission of any University. The DFA hired a forensic accounting firm to review Dalhousie’s audited financial statements for the past 15 years. The findings show that while tuition fees continue to rise, much less of those funds are invested in the academic mission than in 2002. On top of regular funding cuts to academic units, more than \$122 million was directed away from research and into capital funds over that time span. (The DFA’s *Review of Dalhousie University Finances* is attached and [available on our website.](#))

Dalhousie spends about as much on non-academic staffing as it does on staff dedicated to teaching and research, a practice that is highly unusual in the U15. The school also directs more of its revenue to non-academic priorities than most other Universities here in Nova Scotia. (see charts below)

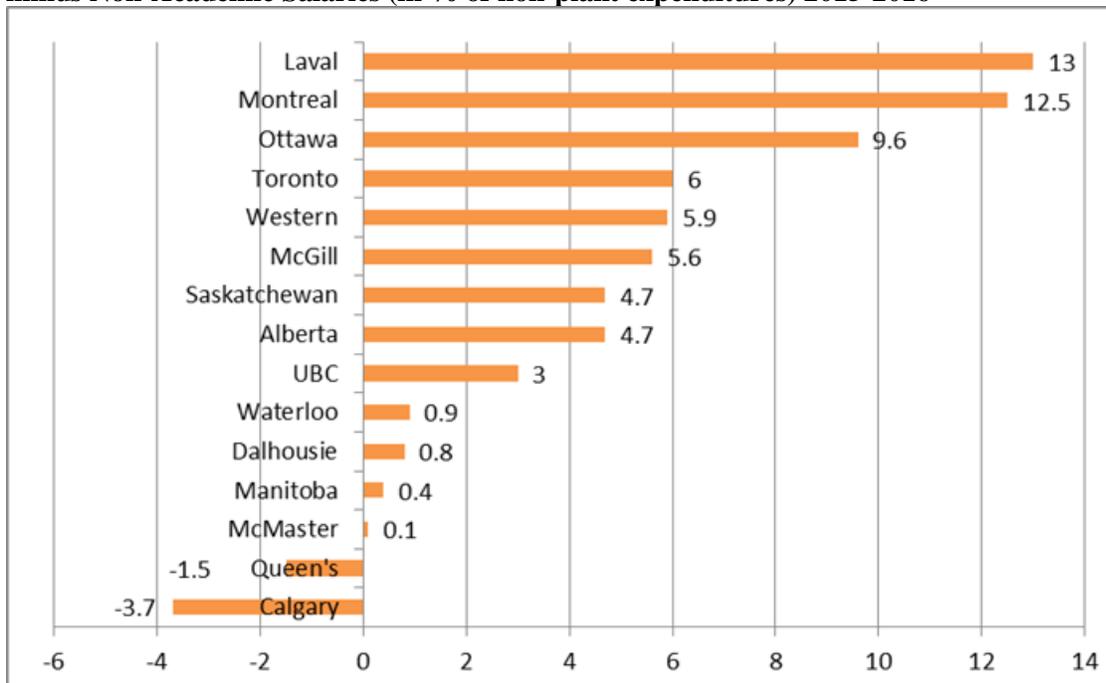
“Tuition hikes and cuts to teaching and research are not a financial necessity for Dalhousie to balance its budget,” notes Abramson. “These are choices made by the Board of Governors, and they continue to choose buildings and non-academic priorities over learning and research. What higher priorities should there be at a University than learning and research?”

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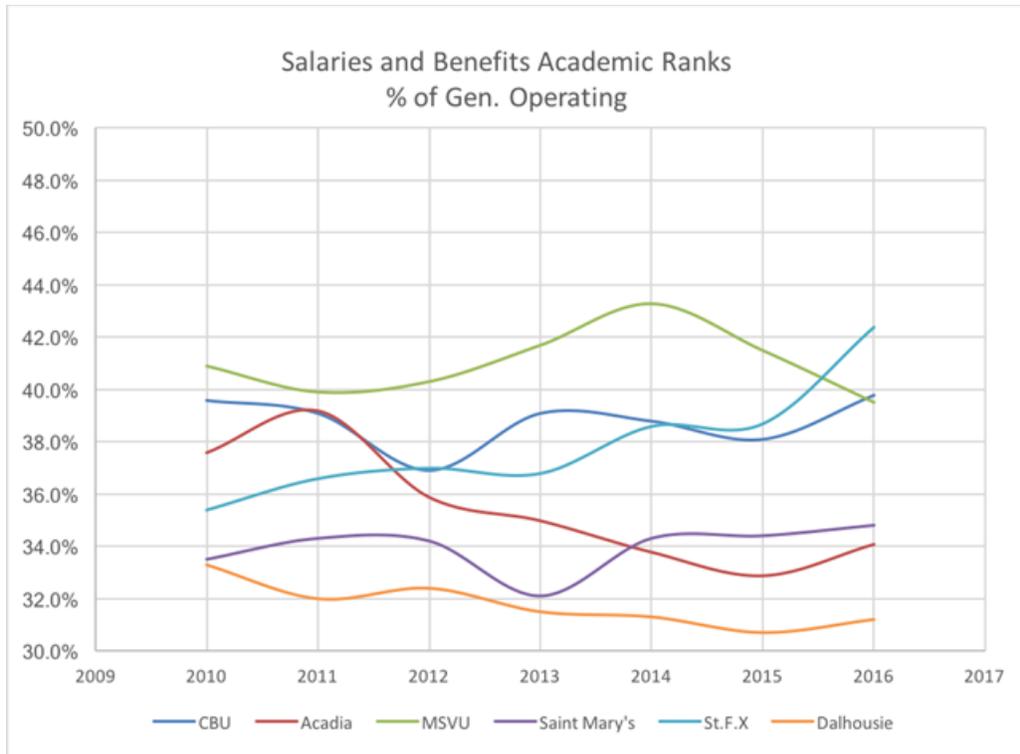
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The Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) represents more than 950 teaching, research, librarian and counselling staff at Dalhousie University. Under the leadership of a volunteer Executive Committee, the DFA deals with items and issues of common interest to our members and addresses broader interests of the academic community.

**U15: Academic Salaries (in % of non-plant expenditures)
minus Non-Academic Salaries (in % of non-plant expenditures) 2015-2016**



Source: Financial Statistics of Universities and Colleges prepared by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) from data provided by the Centre for Education Statistics (Statistics Canada)



Source: Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers, 2017