

NEWS YOU CAN USE

President's Message

by Dave Westwood, DFA President

It has been a busy summer at the DFA. As you will no doubt have heard, on June 20 there was a significant fire in the Cox Building on the Truro Campus, which houses many of our colleagues in the Faculty of Agriculture. Fortunately, there were no injuries reported as a direct result of the fire, but the damage to the facility is severe and has resulted in significant disruption to the lives and work of many individuals that will be felt for many months and likely years. The DFA is working closely with Members from the Faculty of Agriculture and University administration to help develop and enact plans for recovery.

On a more positive note, we are finalizing plans for events to mark the 40th anniversary of the DFA as a certified bargaining agent, and you will find information about some of these on page four of this newsletter; we hope that you will be able to join us for some or all of these activities.

We are working with current University Teaching Fellows to develop a workshop to assist Senior Instructors who intend to apply for promotion to this rank, and we plan to announce details of this workshop later in the summer. On a somewhat related note, DFA officers and staff will meet with representatives from the administration to develop working documents to provide guidance to Members, Unit-, and Faculty-level Tenure and Promotion Committees in relation to the new provisions in the Collective Agreement around Scholarly activity (Article 17.17).

The DFA continues to be concerned about the weakening of collegial governance at Dalhousie University. The announcement of the appointment of a new Provost and Vice-President Academic implied a broad level of consultation in the search process, but the reality is quite different. Through the grievance process we had sought open presentations to

the full University community by the short-listed candidates. As a reasonable alternative to this request, Senate adopted a motion that short-listed candidates give presentations at a special in camera meeting of Senate in order to provide some balance between the need for broad, open consultation and the Board's desire to protect the confidentiality of applicants. Neither request was honoured by the Search Committee. We will continue to press the issue of broad collegial input in the hiring of senior academic administrators especially as the search for a new President gets underway. Along with our colleagues at CAUT, we are beginning to grow concerned about the powerful and largely unchecked role that professional search consultants play in the process of hiring senior academic administrators on Canadian university campuses.

The lack of collegial process has also been felt recently in regard to the development and approval of new University policies. In the first instance, a new policy on Sexualized Violence was adopted by Senate and the Board of Governors that replaces and greatly extends the former policy on Sexual Harassment. The policy applies to all members of the University Community including employees who belong to a union. The DFA was not consulted during the development of the policy despite the discipline provisions contained within, and none of our concerns were addressed despite sending several letters to the Board of Governors. Furthermore, my request to speak to DFA concerns at the Board meeting was denied. Any Members that become engaged



with this policy are strongly encouraged to seek support and advice from the DFA. DFA officers were alerted to the development of a new policy on international travel, as an early draft implied restrictions on travel and access to research funds at the discretion of University administration. We have since met with the policy sponsors to express our serious concerns about any restrictions on academic freedom that might arise from such a policy, and we will continue to monitor and provide input on subsequent drafts. It is troubling that the pathway to approval for this policy did not include direct consultation with the DFA. It

seems to be becoming the normal practice of the Board to rely on DFA Members to express concerns related to the Collective Agreement, which is not sufficient. We have communicated to the Board a request that the DFA be directly consulted on any policy that intersects with the provisions of the Collective Agreement. I hope the remainder of the summer affords you some opportunity to rest and recover and to enjoy time with family, friends, and other loved ones.

In solidarity,
Dave Westwood, DFA President

DFA Collective Agreement Now Posted in HTML

The 2017-2020 Collective Agreement is now online in HTML at dfa.ns.ca/publications/collective-agreement-2017-2020/. You can view the entire PDF, or you can search the document by article and appendix. If you would like a hard copy of the agreement, please email dfa@dal.ca or call the DFA office at 902-494-3722.

DFA Launches *DFA Drop In* Program

In June, the DFA held its first *DFA Drop In*, inviting members to stop by for coffee with the President Dave Westwood and President-Elect Julia Wright in a casual setting, and talk about questions or concerns that are relevant to the work done by the DFA. We will have these regularly, some will be for all members, others will be just for those Members covered under the Collective Agreement. Watch your email for future invitations. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please contact the DFA office at dfa@dal.ca or call 902-494-3722.

Public Speaker Series Launching This Fall

Pet Food: The Myths & The Facts and *Math & Music* ... these are the topics that will kick off the DFA's new speaker program this fall. The Communications Coordination Committee has been planning a new series designed to bring DFA Members out of the classrooms and labs, and into the community to talk about topics of interest to the public. We plan to hold these every other month alternating between Truro and Halifax, and partnering with the public libraries in each location. The first talk, *Pet Food: The Myths & The Facts*, by Joye Sears, RVT, BScH, will be held **Wednesday, September 26** in the Truro Public Library. The next talk will be held **Tuesday November 27** at the Halifax Central Library, and will be on *Math & Music*, complete with a DFA band led by Jason Brown, PhD in Mathematics. DFA members are encouraged to attend. More details on both of these events to follow.

Dalhousie faculty and staff are invited to attend the following workshops, held as part of Dalhousie's Workplace Wellness program. *Please note, there are no workshops scheduled for August.*

WORK WELL

Sept. 18 Register here

Having Non-Defensive Conversations

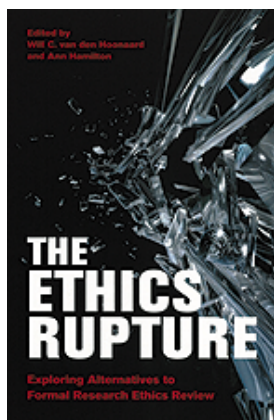
Sept 27 [Register here](#)

Halifax, Sept. 24 Register here

Truro, Sept. 26 Register here

The Ethics Rupture: Exploring alternatives to formal research ethics review

Will C. van den Hoonaard & Ann Hamilton (eds). Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press 2016: 480 pp; ISBN: 978-1-44262-608-9.



“Earlier this year I was complaining to a colleague that my university would not let me submit a project for ethics review until I completed the Tri-Council Policy Statement² Course (TCPS²) on Research Ethics. I had shepherded a proposal through the review process only months earlier. Why was I being subjected to remedial instruction on the TCPS²? My colleague advised me not to sweat it. You don’t have to get the answers right to “pass”. Just click through and register your completion certificate.

These reactions - frustration and compliance - index some of the problems with the current system of social science ethics review identified in *The Ethics Rupture*. The book collates contributions from the international ethics summit held in Fredericton in 2012, best known for producing the New Brunswick Declaration on Research Ethics ... the ethics review system is now so thoroughly entrenched that meaningful change will take major struggle ... *The Ethics Rupture* makes a compelling call to action. If heeded, both the social sciences and wider society will be better off."

Robin Whitaker is an associate professor of anthropology at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Robin's full book review is available on [CAUT's website](#)

Each month, News You Can Use highlights several examples of new and interesting research taking place around the world.

- When galaxies collide: A massive core for a cluster of galaxies at a redshift of 4.3 (Dalhousie University)
- Arctic Ocean may have been covered by an ice shelf nearly double the size of Greenland's ice sheet (The University of Sheffield)
- Marine life near heavily populated areas face stress (James Cook University, Australia)
- Maternal and Child Health in Uttar Pradesh India: A mother's story (Harvard)



DFA 40th Anniversary Commemorative Book: “40 Years of Activism & Action: Working for a Better Dalhousie: Final Call for Contributions

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the DFA's certification as a bargaining agent at Dalhousie - the certification order was signed November 24, 1978. As part of our celebrations, we are undertaking a commemorative project: a volume tentatively titled, “40 Years of Activism & Action: Working for a Better Dalhousie.” The collection will showcase key historical events, personal anecdotes, or significant contributions made by individuals or groups to the Dalhousie Faculty Association and its goals of advancing equity and diversity, supporting the academic mission, and ensuring a fair workplace. Other themes are welcome. We invite written contributions (500-750 words) or photos, historical documents, etc. via email to Catherine.Wall@dal.ca. **Final submissions are due September 4, 2018.** Some contributions may be posted online or distributed to our members via email throughout the year.

Celebrate the DFA's 40th Anniversary with Us

Here are a few of the initiatives we are planning for our 40th. More details to follow as plans unfold:

DFA Conference (Tuesday, November 13, 2018) This one-day conference will feature panel discussions on academic freedom, equity and indigenizing the academy, as well as a keynote speaker. Registration will be required. McInnes Room, 10 am to 4 pm (times may vary slightly).

DFA Evening Reception (Tuesday, November 20, 2018) Held at the Life Sciences Research Institute Atrium, this informal reception will feature some of our former presidents and the launch of our commemorative book. Stop by to share stories, memories and perspectives with your colleagues. 6-8 pm (Time may vary slightly).



News You Can Use features DFA news and links to items of interest to Dalhousie academic staff. If you have news we can use, please contact Catherine Wall, DFA Communications Officer, at Catherine.Wall@dal.ca. Submissions must be received no later than the 15th of the month to be considered for the following month's issue.



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