

Dalhousie Professional and Managerial Group (DPMG) President's Report 2017-2018

The 2017 – 2018 year has been one of transition and change for the DPMG Executive, with Andrea Power, who became President in July 2017, leaving Dalhousie to assume a new role at the University of Calgary in late March 2018. As outlined in our Constitution, as Vice President at the time, I assumed the President's responsibilities until the next election in June 2018. At the time of Andrea's departure, the Executive decided not to appoint someone into the Vice President's role for the remaining three months, but to each take on a portion of the work.

I would like to share a few updates and accomplishments of the DPMG over the past year:

- It is important to the DPMG Executive that our general meetings be accessible to all members. As such, we have continued to livestream our general meetings so that members located in Truro and Saint John can participate.
 - We worked with HR to develop a series of "HR FYI" sessions, to be integrated into our General Meetings, providing advice and guidance on HR topics of interest. Our first session, delivered by Chris Hattie at the General Meeting in March, outlined the HR structure and gave us a handy 'who to call for what' document.
 - Additionally, we have developed a partnership with the Atlantica Hotel on Robie Street, who has kindly provided lunch at our last two general meetings (for those in Halifax), and door prizes for all campuses. We look forward to continuing this partnership next year.
- This year we received the highest number of DPMG Award nominations ever – 24 excellent, thorough submissions highlighting the accomplishments of our colleagues. We awarded three DPMG awards at a luncheon with Dr. Florizone in May, and another at the DPMG Conference in June.
- The Communications Committee has continued their excellent and informative DPMG newsletter, and has created a DPMG Committee member pin, that we will begin distributing in the coming months.
- The Outreach Committee continues to provide opportunities for our members to get together, through Friday fitness, the annual summer BBQ, and other social events.
- Our partnership with Dal HR continues with a joint legacy event, taking place in late June. Last year's event focused on newcomers to Canada, and this year's event will focus on youth.
- Our Twitter presence has grown to over 170 members (over 25% of our membership). If you don't already follow us, please do @DalDPMG.
- We have provided DPMG representation on a variety of university committees, including but not limited to Job Evaluation and Appeals, Transportation and Parking, Environmental Health and Safety, Pension Advisory, and Employment Equity.

- We have continued our popular new member coffee chats – an opportunity for new members to meet with the Executive informally to ask questions about the university.
- We launched our first Dal 1001 session, tailored to new(ish) to Dal DPMG members who would like to learn more about the university. We were pleased to have over 60 attendees, and plan to host another session in the fall.
- As always, the highlight of our year is our annual conference. With over 300 registrants this year and an exciting new format for the day, I know that you will enjoy the sessions and opportunity to get to know your colleagues from across campus.

That is quite a list of events, meetings, and initiatives. For all of this to happen, many people need to take on a lot of ‘side of the desk’ work (to borrow Past President Robert Wooden’s favourite phrase) and volunteer their time, whether it be as standing committee members, representatives on university committees or volunteers for events like today. To all of our DPMG volunteers - thank you all for your time and your talent – the DPMG could not function without you!

I would also like to thank the DPMG Executive for their help and support during this time of transition – Secretary Christina Coakley, Treasurer Lan Nguyen, and Past President Robert Wooden.

Serving on a DPMG PD Committee and then on the DPMG Executive has been a remarkable experience. I’ve appreciated the opportunity to meet colleagues that I wouldn’t otherwise have met, and to explore new and exciting ways to enrich our members. If you are looking for opportunities to get involved on campus, broaden to skillset, or just meet new people, please reach out to the Executive – we would be happy to help you get involved in the DPMG.

Thank you,

Kate Somers

DPMG President (Acting), 2017-2018