

Dalhousie Professional and Managerial Group (DPMG)

President's Report 2018 – 2019

Delivered at the DPMG Conference – June 6, 2019

I want to thank you all for taking the time out of your very busy schedule to attend the conference and invest in yourselves and your careers through professional development. The DPMG Conference is an excellent opportunity to collaborate with your colleagues, network, meet new people, and share ideas. I would particularly like to give a warm welcome to first time conference attendees and new DPMG members – we're so glad that you're with us today.

I encourage you to make the most of the Conference - please attend what you can today, and that includes the breaks, lunch, and afternoon social.

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.
 - The ever popular “**HR FYI**” sessions continue to be integrated into our General Meetings, providing advice and guidance on HR topics of interest. Topics this year have included bargaining updates, how benefits are set, wellness updates, information on the transition from Career Beacon to PeopleAdmin, and a presentation on our total compensation package.
 - Additionally, we have continued a valuable partnership with the **Atlantica Hotel** on Robie Street, who provides complimentary lunches at our last general meetings (for those in Halifax). This allows us to re-allocate the funding that we would normally use for lunch to other DPMG purposes. We look forward to continuing this partnership next year.
 - We are also pleased to see a significant **growth in DPMG GM attendance** this year, averaging well over 125 members at all three of our general meetings.
- This year we received 20 DPMG Award nominations, which were all thorough submissions highlighting the accomplishments of our colleagues. We will be presenting these DPMG Awards at a luncheon with Senior Administration next week.
- The **Communications Committee** has continued their excellent and informative DPMG newsletter, and has created several new initiatives including:
 - Creation of DPMG branded pens for new members
 - Overhaul of the DPMG One-pager placed in hiring packages
 - Increased use of website analytics for planning website structure (this has changed how we update the site and where information is placed)
 - Creation of DPMG signature to help unify the committees communications
 - Overall increase of 82% on twitter impressions and engagement. If you don't already follow us, do so know using @dalDPMG.

- The **Outreach Committee** continues to provide opportunities for our members to get together, through Friday fitness, the annual summer BBQ, and other social events.
 - HIIT & yoga were filled to capacity again this spring session, which will end later this month. We'll take a break for the summer, and look to start back up mid-September.
 - Summer softball kicked off our first game last week with a triumphant comeback victory over Dal Dentistry. Hopes are high for another fun-filled season.

- As you may know, this year as a trial we split the **Professional Development Committee** into two – forming a separate Conference Committee and Personal and Professional Development Committee.
 - The goal of this change was to respond to member requests for more non-Conference PD, while allowing the Conference Committee to fully focus on planning today's event.
 - I'm pleased to announce that we offered 7 non-Conference PD sessions this year, and we will be recommending to the next Executive that they consider making this change permanent.

- Our partnership with Dal HR continues with a joint legacy event, which took place last weekend with the theme Day of Active Learning.

- We have provided DPMG representation on a variety of university committees, including but not limited to Job Evaluation and Appeals, Transportation and Parking, 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. This year we hosted four coffee chats, and met over 20 new members.

- We held another Dal 1001 session, tailored to new to Dal DPMG members who would like to learn more about the university. We were pleased to have over 60 attendees.

- As always, the highlight of our year is our annual conference. With over 300 registrants this year, 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 and volunteer their time, whether it be as standing committee members, representatives on university committees or volunteers for events like today.

I suspect that many of you have heard this once or twice, but it bears repeating – no one does anything alone – and that is especially true of volunteer work. 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 - Treasurer Lan Nguyen and Secretary Terri Mann.

Last but not least a huge thank you to our outgoing Vice President Christina Coakley. Christina has served on the Conference Committee, and then as DPMG Secretary and Vice President. Her event-planning expertise and organizational skills have been invaluable. Christina – thank you for saying ‘yes’ every time I asked you to take on a new DPMG role – it’s been a pleasure working with you.

Finally, as many of you know, this is my last month as DPMG President. Serving on a DPMG PD Committee and then on the DPMG Executive has been a remarkable experience. I have appreciated the opportunity to meet colleagues that I would not otherwise have met, and to explore new and exciting ways to enrich our campus.

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.

In closing, I would like to thank the DPMG members for being supportive of our work, for coming to the general meetings, and for sharing your thoughts and feedback. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted

Kate Somers
President, Dalhousie Professional and Managerial Group

