

MEMORANDUM

To: The Dalhousie University community
From: Richard Florizone, President
Date: July 17, 2014

Re: The Provost role at Dalhousie

Some of you may have noticed the word “Provost” used more often at Dalhousie recently than it has in the past, along with reference to a group known as the Provost Committee. This “Provost model,” as we’ve been calling it, will be familiar to those who have worked at other major Canadian universities, but it has not been fully implemented at Dalhousie in recent years.

Having trialed components of this model over the past several months, I wanted to take this opportunity to share details about the enhanced Provost role and how it will better align our decision making with our core academic mission.

About the Provost

The Provost position is not new to Dalhousie: it’s currently part of the Vice-President Academic role. However, to date its full responsibilities have not been exercised as at other Canadian universities, including most of the U15.

A fully implemented Provost model has the Provost ensuring the integration of university planning and budget processes, in consultation with our Vice-Presidents, the Deans and other key university leaders. The Provost:

- Ensures university plans and budgets align with academic priorities;
- Oversees integrated strategic planning;
- Strengthens direct reporting relationships with our Deans;
- Works closely with the Vice-President Finance and Administration on budgeting;
- Serves as chief academic officer, ensuring collaboration and integration among all the Vice-Presidents.

Central to a Provost model is the Provost Committee, a group whose membership at this interim stage includes all of the Vice-Presidents. The Provost Committee is responsible for aligning resources to strategic directions and recommending institutional proposals, including capital projects, to the full President’s Executive group for approval. The Provost Committee is chaired by the Provost, with the Vice-President Finance and Administration as vice-chair.

Carolyn Watters will continue to serve in her current role with a title switch to Provost and Vice-President Academic effective immediately, reflecting the enhanced Provost role.

The Provost model does not add more personnel to our senior administration at this time, although some titles and reporting relationships of administrative staff are likely to change. Our goal is to

finalize and communicate these changes in September, pending the outcome of ongoing consultations with affected staff.

As always, Carolyn and I welcome any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Richard

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