

17.0 SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

17.1 SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The Social Accountability Committee is established within the Faculty of Medicine to uphold the principles of social responsibility and community engagement in medical education and practice. The principles are outlined in the approved Social Accountability Statement (2024). Recognizing the importance of addressing societal health needs and promoting equitable access to healthcare, the Social Accountability Committee is tasked with fostering a culture of social accountability among faculty, staff, students, and trainees.

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17.24 ROLE

The World Health Organization (1995) has defined the social accountability of medical schools as "the obligation to direct their education, research and service activities towards addressing the priority health concerns of the community, region, and/or nation they have a mandate to serve. The priority health concerns are to be identified jointly by governments, health care organizations, health professionals and the public."

The Faculty of Medicine is committed to meaningfully engaging with, and being socially accountable to its diverse, internal and external stakeholders. In striving to meet its education, research, patient care, population health and advocacy mandates, the Faculty actualizes this responsibility through the integrated, practical application of the following four socially accountability lenses to its deliberations, decisions and actions:

- Equity
- Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Responsiveness
- Community/Stakeholder Engagement and Partnering
- Justice, Fairness and Sustainability

The Committee has two key purposes/roles of the Social Accountability Committee include:

- To promote social accountability and responsibility within the Faculty of Medicine.
- To enhance community engagement and partnerships to address local health needs.
- To integrate determinants of health into the curriculum and practice of medical education.
- To advance health equity and address health disparities through education, research, and service.
- To foster a culture of ethical and socially responsible behavior among faculty, staff, students, and trainees.

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1. To provide advice and recommendations on current and future research, education and operational needs to meet the social accountability mandate within the Faculty; and,

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2. To support the implementation of the Faculty's strategic plan's work on partnering with communities for improved health outcomes. (currently Focus Area 7 in #DalMedForward).

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The Social Accountability Committee is a Standing Committee of the Faculty of Medicine and shall operate as per the terms and conditions outlined in Section 3.0 "Standing Committees" of the Faculty's procedural framework unless otherwise stated in these terms of reference. Section 3.0 provides information on the establishment of standing committees, accountability to Faculty Council, delegation to sub-committees, membership, etc. The Chair is responsible for ensuring the procedural framework is followed.

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17.2 MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Committee shall strive to reflect a broad diversity of members, with representation

from historically under-represented faculty and staff among self-identified Indigenous persons, racialized persons, women, persons with disabilities and persons who belong to sexual orientation and gender ~~identified~~identity minority groups.

A minimum of one member will be from Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick (DMNB) and the Cape Breton Medical Campus (CBMC).

a) Elected Voting Members

- i) ~~Minimum of F~~four (4) members of F~~aculty members~~: two (2) from basic science departments and two (2) from clinical departments;
- ii) ~~Minimum of two (2) Assistant/Associate Deans appointed by the Dean of Medicine~~
- iii) ~~Representative from Medical Research and Development Office~~
- iv) ~~Representative from the Anti-Oppression Sub-Committee~~
- v) ~~One graduate student representative nominated from the Faculty of Graduate Studies Society~~
- vi) ~~One medical student representative nominated from the Dalhousie Medical Student Society~~
- vii) ~~One postgraduate resident member nominated by Maritime Resident Doctors~~
- viii) ~~One representative from the Dalhousie Professional Managerial Group (DPMG). One~~
~~representative nominated from the Indigenous Health Working Group;~~
- iii) ~~One representative nominated from the PLANS Advisory Committee;~~
- iv) ~~One representative nominated from the Diversity in Leadership Working Group;~~
- v) ~~One graduate student representative nominated from the Faculty of Graduate Studies Society;~~
- vi) ~~One medical student representative nominated from the Dalhousie Medical Student Society;~~
- vii) ~~One postgraduate resident member nominated by Maritime Resident Doctors;~~
- viii) ~~One representative from the Dalhousie Professional Managerial Group (DPMG); and;~~
- ix) ~~One member from the Systems Change Committee.~~

b) Ex Officio Non-Voting Members:

- i) ~~Two (2) Assistant/Associate Deans appointed by the Dean;~~
- ii) ~~Assistant Associate~~ Dean, Serving & Engaging Society;
- iii) ~~Director, Community Partnerships and Global Health~~Global Health Office
Manager, Community Engaged Service Learning

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c) Term of Voting Members: Voting members shall be appointed for five-year staggered terms. Graduate student and resident members will serve two-year terms (renewable). Medical student member will serve one-year term (renewable). ~~medical student and resident members will serve one-year terms.~~

d) Co-Chairs: The ~~Assistant Associate~~ Dean, Serving and Engaging Society, will co-chair with a member of the Committee. The Committee will determine who will co-chair with the ~~Assistant Associate~~ Dean.

17.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Social Accountability Committee is responsible for the following:

a) **Advice on Accreditation Standards:** Offer guidance on how UGME (Undergraduate Medical Education), PGME (Postgraduate Medical Education), and CPD (Continuing Professional Development) programs align with accreditation standards related to social accountability

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b) **Direction on Serving and Engaging Society Priorities:** Provide strategic guidance on integrating
Serving and Engaging Society priorities into the faculty's operations and programs

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c) **Community Engagement Strategy**: Oversee the creation, implementation, and evaluation of a strategy focused on community engagement.

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d) **Facilitate Initiatives**: Support and centralize initiatives from learners, faculty, and staff that align with social accountability goals, and recognize their efforts

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e) **Identify, Learn from and Celebrate Activities**: Recognize and learn from social accountability efforts and achievements within the community and the Faculty

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f) **Recommendations to the Faculty**: Offer expert advice to enhance the faculty's alignment with social accountability principles.

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g) **Support Development of Metrics**: Develop tools to measure and assess the impact of social accountability efforts, ensuring continuous improvement.

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h) **Oversight of Committee Work**: Ensure that the work of the Social Accountability Committee and its subcommittees is aligned with the faculty's social accountability objectives and principles.

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Monitor the progress, impact, and effectiveness of the anti-oppression subcommittee's initiatives to address issues related to systemic inequities and promote inclusivity

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Providing advice on UGME, PGME and CPD accreditation standards related to social accountability (e.g. CACMS 1.1.1);

b) ~~Providing direction on the implementation of DalMedForward, with a particular emphasis on Focus Area 7 "Partnering with Communities to Improve Health Outcomes";~~

c) ~~Supporting the development of metrics to assess and evaluate the implementation of DalMedForward Focus Area 7 (Partnering with Communities to Improve Health Outcomes) and accreditation standards;~~

d) ~~Liaising with committees within the Faculty of Medicine with a mandate that encompasses social accountability to coordinate a collective vision and implementation plan (i.e. Advisory Committees for Indigenous Health and African Nova Scotian Health, and Diversity in Leadership Working Group; Service Learning Leadership Team);~~

e) ~~Facilitating initiatives led by Dalhousie learners, faculty and staff that meet the social accountability mandate and acting as a central point of engagement to recognize the collective network of social accountability across the Faculty of Medicine;~~

f) ~~Facilitating the implementation of evaluation frameworks including the "Social Accountability Evaluation and Enhancement Framework" for the Faculty of Medicine; and,~~

g) ~~Identifying, learning from and celebrating social accountability activities and accomplishments led by communities, learners, faculty and staff.~~

17.4 REPORTING

The Social Accountability Committee shall report annually ~~(with the Systems Change Committee)~~ to the Dean, Faculty Council and the Council of Associate and Assistant Deans.

~~Annual reports shall be prepared and disseminated to relevant stakeholders. The Social Accountability Committee maintains transparency and accountability in all its endeavors. The Social Accountability Committee will have an annual consultation with community members and organizations with the Systems Change Committee.~~

~~The Social Accountability Committee will also hold an annual town hall meeting with learners in the Faculty of Medicine with the Systems Change Committee.~~

17.5 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflict of Interest means that a member's interests, whether personal or business, pecuniary or otherwise conflict with their committee responsibilities. The committee will be guided by the Dalhousie University Conflict of Interest Policy

17.6 SPECIAL PROCEDURES

The Social Accountability Committee shall meet at least eight times during the academic year.

The Office of Community Partnerships and Global Health shall provide administrative support and resources as needed to facilitate the Social Accountability Committee's work.

Presented for Approval by Faculty Council on XXXX, 2024

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