

Dalhousie Professional and Managerial Group (DPMG)

President's Report 2016-2017

As President of the DPMG I would like to take a few moments to share the accomplishments of your association over the past year, and to provide some thanks.

In my report last year to the membership I outlined how your DPMG Executive would be obtaining as much member feedback as possible. The last time this was done formally was 2009 and it only made sense that we spend some time and effort to hear from you. And hear from you we did! This was accomplished this through three separate means.

First, two focus groups with 19 DPMG members, including a group that focused on new members, were conducted for us by a faculty member from the Rowe School of Business. We then had a consultation with 14 DPMG members from DPMG Standing Committees and DPMG Representatives on University Committees to gather feedback from these active volunteers. The information we learned from these sessions allowed your executive to conduct a membership survey in February that yielded responses from 325 members, a 49.2% response rate! Survey results were reported to the membership at the March General Meeting and if you missed that meeting the minutes and the presentation of the survey results were circulated by email and these will be added to the DPMG website after today's meeting now that the minutes have been approved.

Through these three different methods of gathering your feedback we learned a great deal. We know that access to more professional development is desired by our members and there is an interest to participate in an online forum of some sort for DPMG members. This feedback has provided a starting point for your executive to develop some additional priorities. We have a workshop called "Dal 1001" under development and we will be examining a plan to consider the logistics of creating a member online forum.

So my first thank you is to everyone who took the time to provide their feedback to us, your executive. Thank you!

In addition to considerable member consultation, your association had a number of accomplishments this past year, including:

1. Continuing of our livestreaming of general meetings so our members on our campuses in Truro and Saint John could participate;
2. Creating a new DPMG Award for Outstanding Achievement category entitled the Early Career Award, open to those who have been a DPMG member less than four years;
3. Increased Professional Development offerings by our PD Committee;
4. A fabulous newsletter by our Communications Committee that comes out three times per year;
5. Providing DPMG representation on a variety of university committees;
6. New and more outreach events, with Friday Fitness and Yoga both being quite popular;
7. "Coffee Chats" for new members with the DPMG Executive were well received and we provided answers to many questions for these new members;

8. We partnered with Dalhousie Human Resources to launch the Growing Communities Event Series to host a one-day professional development conference for new immigrants and this related to Dalhousie's Strategic Priority 3 of Service and a similar event will take place in 2018 as part of Dal 200 celebrations;
9. We began a dialogue with Human Resources concerning gathering data on important topics such as staff exit interviews, the internal promotions of members, and staff workload concerns;
10. The DPMG has been on Twitter for a year now with almost 120 followers – if you aren't following us yet we are @DalDPMG and don't forget to tweet about today's conference using the hashtag #2017DPMG;
11. And, of course, the highlight of our year being our annual conference with the highest numbers of registrations ever, registrants from all 5 campuses, almost 70 first time conference registrants and over 40 new DPMG member registrants – please make our 1st time attendees and new members feel welcomed and they can be identified by the ribbons on their name badges.

For all of these things to happen, we need many members to take on “side of the desk work” and volunteer their time. Standing committee members, representatives for university committees and volunteers for events like today. So my second thank you is to all of our volunteers, thank you for taking the time to serve your association, we cannot do it without you!

Being your DPMG President has been a great experience for me on many levels. And I have had the pleasure to work closely with some amazing DPMG colleagues. So to Jennifer Morawiecki, Vice President, Kate Somers, Treasurer and Conference Co-Chair this year, and Andrea Power, our Secretary, my biggest thank you has to go to the three of you! The past year has been amazing and the level of dedication each of you have given to your association and our fellow 650 DPMG Members has been so impressive. Thank you!

I look forward to wrapping up my time on the DPMG Executive over the next twelve months as I serve as your Past-President.

Thank you

Robert Wooden

DPMG President, 2015-17