

## MEMORANDUM

To: The Dalhousie University community

From: Kim Brooks, Provost and Vice-President Academic (Acting)

Date: Thursday, June 8, 2023

**Re: Decanal Reappointments**

I am thrilled to announce four Decanal reappointments.

Dr. Ben Davis has been reappointed for a second five-year term as Dean of Dentistry starting on July 1, 2023. Dr. Davis supported and successfully led the Faculty through exceedingly stressful and unprecedented challenges. It is remarkable that in this period of intense change and adaptation, the Faculty was able to successfully and collaboratively develop an exciting and ambitious strategic plan that will guide the extraordinary work of the Faculty.

Dr. David Gray has been reappointed for another five-year term as Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Campus Principal starting July 1, 2023. Dean Gray is passionate about the Agricultural Campus (AC) and the success of the Faculty's academic and research missions, community outreach, and industry engagement. Dr. Gray's sense of pride and dedication to the mission is evident in all of his work. He is committed to working with the Faculty to build the AC, expand the Truro Start programming in partnership with other Faculties, sustain a strong engagement with the campus and Truro communities, and work with industry to promote the needs and aspirations of the Faculty and campus.

Dr. Brenda Merritt has been reappointed for a five-year term as Dean of the Faculty of Health starting July 1, 2023. Dean Merritt's current appointment began in 2019, partway through the Faculty's implementation of its previous five-year strategic plan (2017-2022). Throughout her tenure as Dean, Dr. Merritt has invested considerable time and effort to establish strong relationships across the Faculty, university, and provincial government departments. Dr. Merritt led the development of an innovative, new strategic plan for the Faculty unlike any other. Dal Health's new strategic plan unites faculty, staff, students, and alumni with a common purpose.

Dr. John Newhook has been reappointed for a second five-year term as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and will start his term January 1, 2024 after taking a six-month leave. Dean Newhook began his tenure in 2018, partway through the Faculty's strategic plan. A little over eighteen months after his appointment as Dean, the University was facing significant health and safety risks and related challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, Dean Newhook continued to make progress on key strategic priorities. Dr. Yi Liu will be the acting Dean during Dr. Newhook's leave and will begin her six-month term on July 1, 2023. Dr. Liu is currently the Head of the Department of Civil and Resource Engineering (CRE), a position she has held since 2015. Dr. Liu has been a member of that faculty for over 20 years.

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I would like to thank each of them for their leadership and I look forward to their continued momentum and success over the next five years. Please join me in warmly congratulating Ben, David, Brenda and John on their reappointments.

Sincerely,

Kim Brooks  
Provost and Vice-President Academic (Acting)

*Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all treaty people.*

*We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.*