

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty and Staff

From: Wanda M. Costen, Provost and Vice-President Academic

Date: May 22, 2025

Re: Appointment of Dean Graduate Studies

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Christian Blouin as Dean, Graduate Studies for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2025.

Dr. Blouin has been a valued member of the Dalhousie community for more than two decades. He first joined the university as Postdoctoral Fellow and Adjunct Professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, a department within the Faculty of Medicine. Later, he moved to the Faculty of Computer Science where he became a Professor and, in 2015, took over the role of Associate Dean (Academic). He has led program designs, major program revisions, and fundamental changes in structure and process within the Faculty of Computer Science. Since 2023, Dr. Blouin has been the Institutional Lead (AI Strategy) within the Provost's office, working closely with the Associate VP Academic and the Chief Information Officer to facilitate AI integration at Dalhousie. He is known as being collaborative, strategic, and deeply committed to fostering trust and respect across diverse academic environments. With a strong background in change management and relationship-building, he prioritizes transparency, accountability, and empowering others to thrive.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Blouin on his appointment.

As Dr. Leonard concludes her second term as Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, we extend our sincere appreciation for her dedicated leadership and many contributions. Throughout her tenure as Dean, Dr. Leonard worked collaboratively with colleagues across the university to enhance support for graduate students and faculty,

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advance initiatives for equity-deserving students, increase PhD enrollments, and expand fundraising efforts. She also prioritized mental health supports for graduate students and strengthened the overall services provided by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. I would also like to express my gratitude to the search committee for their contributions over the course of the search process in helping consider such a competitive pool of applicants as well as members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies community for their engagement throughout.

Search Committee Membership

- Dr. Wanda M. Costen, Provost and Vice President Academic (Search Committee Chair)
- Tasha-Lynn Baxter, Senior Manager, Academic Regulations and Student Services
- Dr. Gordon Price, Professor, Department of Engineering; Innovative Waste Management Program; Graduate Coordinator, Faculty of Agriculture; Chair, Faculty of Graduate Studies Faculty Council
- Dr. Michel Ladouceur, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology, School of Health and Human Performance, Faculty of Health
- Dr. Shannon Lin, Accountancy Area Head Associate; Professor of Accounting, Faculty of Management
- Dr. S. M. Kawser Zafor Prince, MSc Student in Epidemiology
- Dr. Peter Tyedmers, Professor, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Science
- Dr. Sarah Wells, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science, School of Biomedical Engineering, Faculty of Medicine

Sincerely,

Wanda M. Costen, PhD
Provost and Vice-President Academic