

DFA

Dalhousie Faculty Association

News You Can Use

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News You Can Use is a monthly e-bulletin featuring DFA news and links to items of interest to Dalhousie academic staff. If you have news we can use, contact us at communications@dfa.ns.ca.

It's your contract. Have your say!



The Collective Agreement between the DFA and the Board of Governors will expire on June 30, 2017. To help us prepare for the next round of negotiations, we are holding meetings for Bargaining Unit Members throughout the month of September.

Let us know what issues are most important to you! Click the link for the meeting times and locations.

[Click here](#)

Truro daycare arbitration adjourned to explore possible options

The DFA and the Board have adjourned their arbitration in an effort to explore possible options for ensuring daycare services on the Agricultural campus in Bible Hill. The DFA had launched a grievance following an announcement that the Agricultural Campus Daycare would be closed as of September 3, in violation of the Collective Agreement between the DFA and the Board.



The arbitration was adjourned on August 29, after the DFA agreed to work with the Board and the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU) to explore options for a sustainable daycare service. The arbitration will resume on January 20, 2017 if the situation is not resolved by that date. In the meantime, daycare services will be suspended.

On August 30, the DFA, the Board and the NSGEU released a joint statement regarding the status of the daycare arbitration. [Click here](#) to read the statement, and [click here](#) to read the story in the *Truro Daily News*, including interviews with DFA President Laurene Rehman and faculty member and parent Sarah Stewart-Clark.

Defining the relationship between professors and students

Is the relationship between a professor and a student akin to that of a boss and an employee? A sales clerk and a customer? Should a professor be available to their students 24/7?

Rob Jenkins, an Associate Professor of English at Georgia State University, examined the professor-student relationship in a recent article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Click the link to read his lively and provocative article.

[Click here](#)

Is there really a "skills gap"?

How many times have you heard a business leader, media commentator or even a politician saying that universities are failing to prepare students for the workforce? But according to such prominent economists as Paul Krugman and Jim Stanford, the "skills gap": is a myth, taking the onus of employers to pay decent wages and train workers. Check out this article in *Academic Matters* to find out more.

[Click here](#)

Upcoming events on precarious academic work

Two upcoming panel discussions in Halifax will be dealing with the issue of precarious academic work, one in September and one in October. Both events will include a presentation by Karen Foster, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Dalhousie, who has recently completed a study of contract academic employment in Nova Scotia.

- **"Precarious Academic Teaching: Are Security and Fair Pay Achievable?"** , Friday, September 9, 6:30-9:30 pm, NSCAD University Boardroom, 5163 Duke Street, 5th Floor. Sponsored by FUNSCAD.
- **"Precarious U"**, Thursday, October 27, 7-9 pm., Sobeys Scotiabank Theatre, Saint Mary's University, 923 Robie Street. Sponsored by the DFA, the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT) and the Canadian Association of University Teachers, as part of Fair Employment Week. More information will be available in the October *News You Can Use* e-bulletin.

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