

For immediate release

**Whose priorities? Whose choices?
Panel discussion to explore program prioritization**

Halifax, Sept. 15, 2014 -- Program prioritization — a process that ranks a university's programs according to set criteria and allocates resources based on those rankings — is becoming one of the most controversial issues on Canadian and U.S. university campuses today.

At the University of Saskatchewan, criticism of the process — which has since been scrapped — snowballed into the firing of a dean and the subsequent departure of both the university's President and Provost. Across North America, program prioritization initiatives have led to universities expanding activities that attract corporate funding, while downgrading the arts, humanities and social sciences.

These are some of the issues that will be explored in *Whose priorities? Whose choices? Program prioritization and the future of post-secondary education*, a public panel discussion at Dalhousie University on **Tuesday, September 30**. Two distinguished Canadian professors and a Dalhousie student leader will discuss how this approach to managing university resources is having an impact on both the quality of post-secondary education and academic freedom.

The event, part of the Dalhousie Faculty Association's Issues in Higher Education Discussion Series, will feature presentations by Dr. Craig Heron, Professor of History at York University and one of Canada's foremost critics of program prioritization; Dr. Len Findlay, Professor of English at the University of Saskatchewan and Chair of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, and Jacqueline Skiptunis, a student in Dalhousie's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Vice-President (Academic and External) of the Dalhousie Student Union. It will be moderated by Dr. Catrina Brown, Associate Professor in Dalhousie's School of Social Work and President of the DFA.

When: Tuesday, September 30, 7 p.m.
Where: Room 303, Student Union Building
6136 University Ave, Halifax

This event is free and open to the public and the media.

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For more information, contact:

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