

Dear Dr. Balsler,

On behalf of the DFA, we submit the following for consideration in your BAC discussions for the 2019-2020 budget.

The DFA has been concerned for some time about the movement of funds from the Academic Responsibility Centre towards buildings and administrative costs. In 2002-2003, 73.6% of the university's overall budget went to the Academic Responsibility Centre. It steadily decreased year over year to a low of 61.9% in 2014-2015. In 2017-2018, it was 64.7% (see attached, Chart #1). Because of these diminished resources, student tuition has increased and Faculty budgets have been cut again and again.

We have supporting material on our site at <https://dfa.ns.ca/publications/review-of-dalhousie-university-finances-the-update/>, but we would highlight the following:

- Since 2010, the university has undertaken significant construction projects (Mona Campbell, 2010; Le Marchant, 2014; Wallace McCain Learning Commons, 2015) on Studley campus and rebuilt Sexton campus. In the same period, 2010-2018, annual BAC cuts have led to a cumulative cut to Faculty budgets of more than 20% while enrolments have grown (see BAC 56, p. 12, for BAC cuts since 2007; this chart only shows the average cut over three-year periods, not the cumulative impact of those cuts). **Now that the building boom is complete, it is time to reinvest in teaching and research—or what are those buildings good for?**
- DFA members have been doing their best to fill the gaps created by the BAC cuts to protect their teaching and their research, but through increasingly unsustainable workloads. **The enormity of a more than 20% drop has significant repercussions for employee health and wellness, research, and the student experience—we need to begin reversing these cuts.**
- Data provided by the Centre for Education Statistics (Statistics Canada) show that Dalhousie spends as much on non-academic salaries as it does on the salaries of those who deliver on the academic mission of the university (see attached Chart #2). Among U15 institutions, Dalhousie ranks 12th for its low spending on academic salaries relative to non-academic salaries and the 2017 Dalhousie Census shows that only 34% of Dalhousie employees are faculty. Chart #3 (attached) shows the decline in spending on faculty salaries over time. **Faculty and academic staff have been doing more with less for years now; it's time to start streamlining non-academic administrative spending outside Faculties to help restore funding for the academic mission.**
- BAC 57 clearly shows that Dalhousie has a lot to offer students, but competitive tuition is necessary to bring them here: our tuition is more competitive with international students and much less so for domestic students, and our enrolments differ accordingly. **Returning funds to the Academic Responsibility Centre would allow both lower tuition increases (or, better yet, decreases) for domestic students and the renewal of funding to the academic mission, increasing access while better supporting a quality student experience.**

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss these issues, and share with you some of the work DFA has done in examining the Dalhousie budget.

Best regards,

David Westwood, DFA President

Chart #1

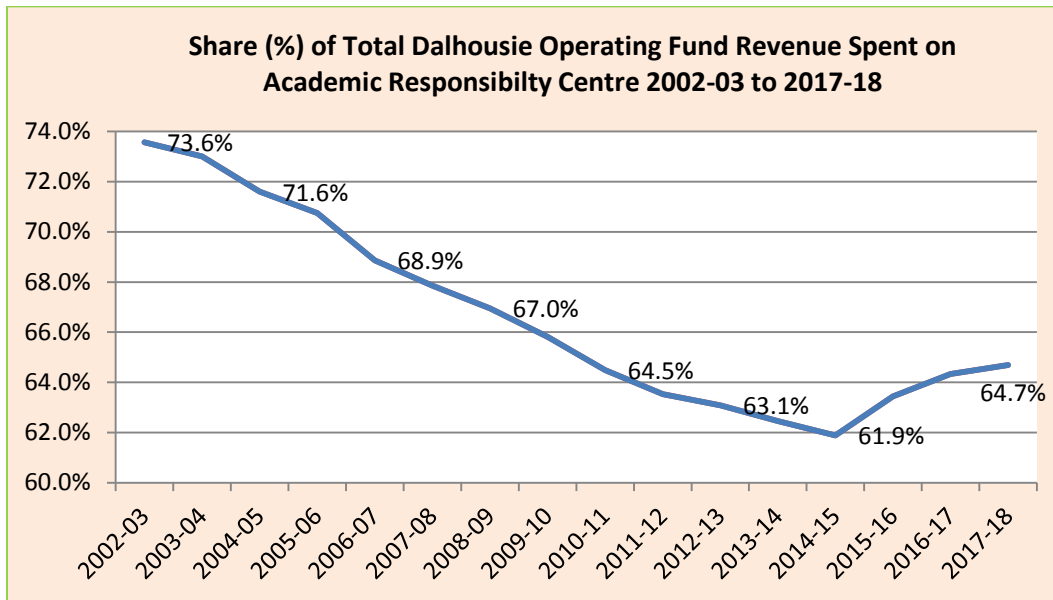
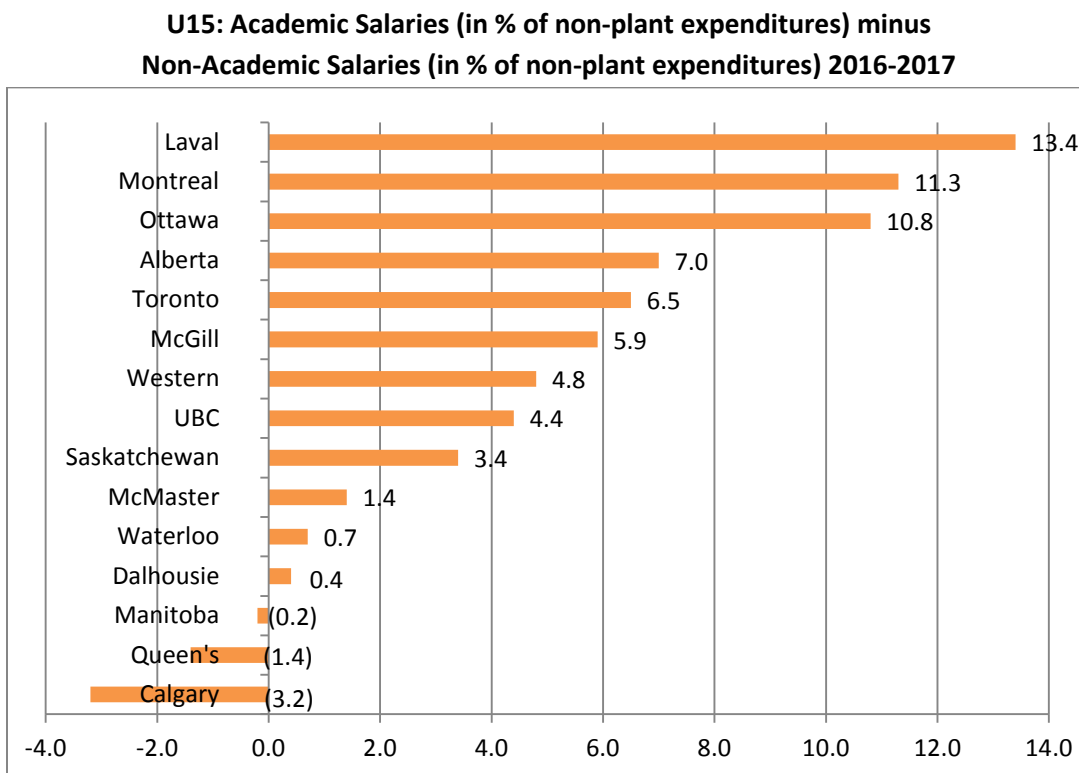


Chart #2



Source: Financial Statistics of Universities and Colleges prepared by the Canadian Association of University Teachers from data provided by the Centre for Education Statistics (Statistics Canada)

Chart #3

Dalhousie University

