

Candidate Statement for Associate Steward: Melanie Young (English Upgrading)

I am running for the position of Associate Steward of the DCFA. I am very familiar with both the workings of the DCFA office in general, and with the role of stewardship in particular. I am currently serving as the Interim President of the DCFA, and I was Vice President Stewardship from 2019-2023. Because of my knowledge of the Collective Agreement, my participation in two rounds of bargaining, and my experience with the processes surrounding grievances and investigations, I believe that I can successfully serve the members as steward and assist Kim Trainor in her work as VP Stewardship.

In solidarity,
Melanie Young

Candidate Statement for Secretary-Treasurer: Morna Fraser (Finance)

This is my statement of interest, qualifications and motivation to take on the DCFA Secretary Treasurer role and I sincerely hope you will vote for me on April 25th.

My Background at Douglas College:

- Robust institutional knowledge at Douglas, having spent more than 15 years teaching in the finance area and developing the Finance programs (BBA and Diploma revisions, PDDs and PBD) and taking them through the academic process (FEC, Edco, VPAC).
- Served on Edco during the bylaw revisions in 2020 and prior to that, on the Edco Policy Committee for years and many other committees, currently on the CBA PD Committee.
- My advocacy for academic freedom was publicly demonstrated throughout the Edco bylaw revision process.
- Regularly attend the DCFA meetings, and am Secretary/Treasurer of the DCFA Status of Women Committee.

My Professional background:

- Previous career as a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) included four years as Regional Manager, (annual budget over 5 million) after ten plus years advising Canadian physicians, on a full range of their investment and other financial decisions.

My Non-profit background:

- Served as an effective team player on non-profits boards as the secretary/treasurer (as well as president and vice president) for over 25 years, including on Strata Council and for sports organizations.
- Multiple years experience with forecast and delivery of balanced budgets.
- Highly motivated to give back to Douglas College through the DCFA at this stage of my career.

Candidate Statement for Secretary-Treasurer: Jennifer Kirkey (Physics and Astronomy)

I am asking you to re-elect me Secretary-Treasurer for my third and final term.

I believe I am the best candidate due to my decades of work with the DCFA and FPSE (Federation of Post-Secondary Educators). I have served on Executive Council, Contract Committee, and the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee. I served one term as Vice President of Negotiations and twelve years on the FPSE Pension Advisory Council.

There is more to being the Secretary-Treasurer than financial statements and I have proven my ability. During each of the past four years the audit was completed, and results distributed, earlier than in the previous 20 years. Financial statements have been produced and distributed in a timely manner. I have negotiated the CUPE agreement for our staff, hired our current Financial Coordinator, helped update the office technology, and made a significant contribution to the Archive Project. Full file cabinets and a closet that was full of unlabelled boxes are now organized, catalogued, and stored (some off-site). I wish to continue working on these projects.

I have the honour of chairing the Operations and Finance Committee, a group of dedicated and highly qualified DCFA members who advise the Association on all things financial. It now boasts five active members, the biggest it has been in many years. I look forward to serving with this committee in the coming term and passing on my knowledge of the DCFA and FPSE.

For these reasons, please vote for me as your DCFA Secretary-Treasurer.

Candidate Statement for Vice-President Negotiations: Devin Shaw (Philosophy)

I have worked at Douglas College since 2018 in the Department of Philosophy. I have served as a table officer since September 2021, primarily as VP Negotiations and, as the needs of the DCFA have required, Interim President. I led the bargaining team that negotiated the 2022–2025 Collective Agreement, which provided significant gains for our members. In addition, I have represented the interests of our members at the provincial level in FPSE’s Presidents’ Council and I have chaired FPSE’s Bargaining Coordination Committee—which is a forum for the negotiators of 18 unions in our sector—for two years. (I was re-elected to chair that committee for another two-year term should I continue as VP Negotiations). At the provincial level, my goal is to continue to advocate for stronger federation support for bargaining and planning in order to improve our position at the table.

With your vote, I will lead our union through the next round of bargaining with the long-term goal of fostering a stronger culture of solidarity.