Hello Erica,

Thank you for taking the time to connect last week. As discussed, we are modifying the way we collect gender identity within Dalhousie’s admissions application. As per provincial privacy regulations, the intention is not to ask for, or extrapolate information, if it is not used to inform admissions or scholarship decisions. *Gender identity/ expression is being collected from applicants for the purpose of connecting applicants to affirmative action/equity admissions processes; and to connect applicants with specific university resources.* The Dalhousie census is also employed as a tool through which to make informed decisions on policy and planning and to develop programs and initiatives to support under-represented groups.

Dalhousie’s undergraduate application form has an unused field within the self-identification section which we will repurpose to expand the gender identity/gender expression options presented to undergraduate applicants. The aim in revisioning how the undergraduate application form collects gender identity/expression information is three-fold:

1. **Reflect the values of an inclusive and diverse university community**
2. **Minimize harm to students**
3. **Adopt industry best practice**

The revisioning of the collection of gender identity within the undergraduate application supports Dalhousie’s commitment to cultivate and nurture a more inclusive environment that is representative of our student population. Additional context will specify at time of collection the reason for the information collection and how it will be used. Disclosures are only required when it’s legally mandated or when there is a legitimate University-related reason for the request.

The screenshot attached depicts the self-identification section (in development/not finalized) for reference.

We welcome feedback Erica as we make the proposed edits:

**Question pertaining to sexual orientation:** Do you identify as a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community (i.e. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, Two-Spirit, asexual, or someone who otherwise expresses gender or sexual diversity)? The plus sign indicates that while not all possible categories of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression are captured in the acronym, they are understood to be included.

Responses: yes/no

**Question pertaining to gender identity/gender expression, with yes or no responses,** removed.

**Question pertaining to Legal Sex** removed.

Gender identifying nomenclature is evolving, the options selected for the drop-down menu include: intersex, female; non-binary; queer; male; transgender; and different identity.
I look forward to any feedback you receive, understanding that we are working with an imperfect system.