Doug Baer is a Professor in the Department of Sociology, having been at the University of Victoria since 2001. He is Past President of the University of Victoria Faculty Association and Past President of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC where, among other things, he helped organize an upcoming conference on university governance (Vancouver, March 2017). He is also the Academic Director of the Statistics Canada Research Data Centre, having worked to establish this centre at UVic in 2006. Outside the university, he has previously acted as President of the Canadian Sociological Association and has served on the Board of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (“Fedcan”) Board and on grant panels for the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Doug has previously represented faculty on UVic Senate and Senate committees in a variety of capacities, including Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Standards. He has also served on Senate and/or Senate committees at two other Canadian universities. He believes that the words “open and transparent governance” are meaningless unless Senators and the university community at large make efforts to question and probe committee reports and administration presentations put before them. In the end, an institution is stronger if its programs, policies and plans are the subject of appropriate levels of scrutiny. In the recent past, as a Senator, Doug advocated against making all Senate committee meetings and the documents associated with them in camera (rendered confidential forever), allowing of course for obvious cases (e.g, student awards) where confidentiality made sense.