

August 7, 2014

Dear AUNBT members,

Attached please find a 6-page document, "Changes to the *UNB Act*," written by various members of the AUNBT executive and other committees, current and former.

As you will know, a sub-committee of the UNB Board of Governors has been working on revisions to the UNB Act, the document that provides the basis for the bicameral governance structure whereby the Senates oversee all academic matters while the Board controls University finances.

We have substantial concerns about this Board initiative: about the possible ramifications of making changes to the Act, and about the process itself. Among other issues, a revised Act potentially could weaken our system of shared governance and result in the loss of the checks and balances of governmental oversight, for example, in the disposition of University properties or the appointment of University presidents.

The process itself has, thus far, been marked by a singular lack of transparency.

The community has been informed that consultation will finally start as early as mid-August, and despite this being perhaps the worst time of year for many members, we would urge you to learn about the issue and become involved in the process.

No doubt you are as surprised as we are that the Board appears to be considering implementing possibly the most sweeping changes UNB has seen in almost half a century, without thorough consultation, and at a time when relations between academic staff and the upper administration are at such a low ebb. Further, some of these changes, if realized, will effectively move UNB even farther away from the independent, collegially-governed centre of teaching and research to which we all aspire.

Please read the attached memo, bookmark the webpage at <<http://aunbt.ca/issues/unb-act/>>, and watch for further discussions and developments.

In solidarity,
Miriam Jones
President, AUNBT