

March 16, 2015

UNB Act Revision Steering Committee
c/o Ms. Roxanne Fairweather, Chair

Dear Members of the Committee,

Please find attached AUNBT's alternate proposal for revisions to the *UNB Act* created in response to the UNB Act Revision Steering Committee's proposal. Our alternate proposal is based on the earlier discussion draft which we made available to the Committee, subsequently revised to include suggestions from our members and others in the UNB community. It also has been reviewed by a member of the law firm Pink Larkin with expertise in legislative drafting. For your convenience, we remind you that the various documents generated by AUNBT throughout this process can be found on the AUNBT.ca website, at <<https://aunbt.ca/issues/unb-act/>>.

With respect to the Committee's proposal, it is our view that:

- i) it was constructed without proper advance consultation and with insufficient regard for the culture, tradition and values of UNB as an institution;
- ii) it rejects core academic values and governance practices central to UNB's status and reputation;
- iii) it would be inappropriate as well as unwise for the Board or the Province to adopt radical changes at a time of unprecedented lack of confidence in the senior administration; and
- iv) the timelines and processes have as yet included no provision for genuine consultation.

We note in particular the failure to allow time for Senates to appropriately consider and debate the proposal before April 16, when it is scheduled to go before the Board for consideration and possible approval for submission to the Legislature.

We agree with the Committee that there are aspects of the current *UNB Act* that could be improved. However, the Committee's proposal, in our view, irredeemably intertwines otherwise benign improvements with an unacknowledged but profound attempt to restructure the governance of UNB in a direction inappropriate for a public university with a commitment to collegial governance. We have communicated such concerns to both the Committee and the Board, most recently in our letter of February 26 to the Chair of the Board, copied to the Chair of the Committee. As of this writing that letter has not been acknowledged; it can be found at <https://aunbtweb.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/kmccain-feb26.pdf>.

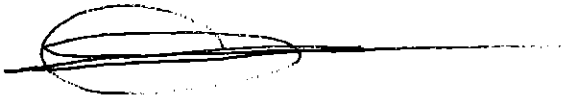
Because the Committee's proposal is so radical, it cannot reasonably serve as a basis for constructive discussion. We acknowledge the time, effort, and resources already devoted to this task but regard the decision to proceed in the absence of advance consultation with the Senates, AUNBT, and student groups as ill-considered and unfortunate. The AUNBT Act revision proposal is offered as a possible starting point for discussion, in full awareness that it is ultimately the prerogative of the provincial government to draft legislation.

AUNBT would be pleased to participate in an open, collaborative, and constructive dialogue aimed at arriving at a proposal different constituencies could embrace, and which could serve the long-term viability and functioning of UNB as a respected centre for teaching and research with a bi-cameral governance structure grounded in collegial respect.

We look forward to hearing from the Committee.

Please acknowledge receipt of this, our submission.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Reid', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Allan Reid,
Chair, AUNBT Task Force on UNB Act Revisions

cc: Board of Governors
AUNBT membership