

Ms. Kathryn McCain, Chair
UNB Board of Governors

October 29, 2014

Dear Ms. McCain,

I am writing to you today on behalf of AUNBT to indicate our support of the motions passed by both Senates, as well as several faculty councils and the library board, urging that the Board of Governors extend the consultation period on the proposed revisions to the *UNB Act* by four months, to March 16, 2015.

As you are aware, there have been discussions about revising the *UNB Act* since at least 2007 under President John McLaughlin, and the current committee has worked for eighteen months, with the assistance of a lawyer, on the draft now before us. Given the complexity of the documents and the significance of the task, members of the University community need a reasonable period in which to consider and address the proposed changes.

Even at the best of times, rewriting our foundational document would be a task to be undertaken with the utmost care. These are not the best of times. Events of last winter are fresh in memory and mistrust has been exacerbated by failure of the Board to acknowledge and address the overwhelming votes of non-confidence in senior management. Now our members and others in the UNB community feel that they are being rushed through perhaps the most significant discussions at UNB in half a century, discussions in which they are being asked to give up legislated rights specified in the current UNB Act. They are also being asked to take much on trust. I refer both to the fact that we are being asked to accept sweeping changes without seeing a proper draft of the bylaws where the bulk of the current Act is apparently to be relocated, and to that relocation itself. The latter is of even greater concern as it would render the affected language subject to change or removal unilaterally by the Board of Governors without due process.

With this letter AUNBT requests formally that the Board extend the current phase of the consultation process until March 16, 2015, and only then begin the next stage.

This is an issue of great concern. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,



Miriam Jones
President, AUNBT

cc. Ms. Roxanne Fairweather, Chair of the Revisions to the Act Committee
President H.E.A. Campbell