

## Memo

**To:** AUNBT members  
**Date:** October 14, 2014  
**Re:** Proposed revision of the *UNB Act*

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We are writing to update you on **recent AUNBT activity around the proposed revision to the *UNB Act*.**

1. As you may already have seen from examination of the draft revisions to the *UNB Act* recently published by the University Secretary's office, the Board of Governors and President Campbell's administration have proposed sweeping revisions to the *Act*. These would provide ***extraordinary new powers*** to the Board and destroy the current balance between the Senates and the Board. Among other things, the revisions provide the Board with the sole authority to establish or eliminate Senates and to determine their jurisdictions. President Campbell called such changes modernizations (*The Brunswickan*, October 1), but they are instead a reactionary reversion to the state of affairs a half century ago, before academic democracy and collegial rights were legislated into existence with the 1968 *UNB Act*. These massive revisions were developed in a secret process lasting a year and a half, with no prior consultations with AUNBT, student groups, or the wider community as to the types of amendments that would be reasonable.
2. AUNBT considers it material that the proposed revisions to the *Act* were published in late September 2014—with provision for a narrow, six-week consultation period—at a time when the non-confidence motions in President Campbell and his senior administration have not yet been addressed by the President or the Board.
3. AUNBT wrote a ***letter to President Campbell*** on Oct. 6 in which we notified him that we were formulating a response, as well as indicated that the imposed six-week time-frame for internal consultation is too brief. As of this writing we have not received a response but when we do, we will report to the members. The letter was posted online on Oct. 6 at <http://aunbt.ca/2014/10/06/aunbt-sent-the-following-letter/>.

4. AUNBT has set up an ad-hoc ***task force*** to work on the AUNBT response. At this point, the committee consists of the following individuals, though we expect more will become involved:
  - David Bell
  - Miriam Jones
  - Brian Lowry
  - Charlene Mayes
  - Elizabeth McGahan
  - Erik Moore
  - Allan Reid (Chair)
  - Edie Snook
  - Hugh Thomas
  - Jon Thompson
  - Lloyd Waugh
5. AUNBT is consulting ***faculty associations nationally***.
6. AUNBT has begun ***discussions with CAUT***. They have professional staff who specialize in university governance. David Robinson, Executive Director, called the proposed revisions “very disturbing.” AUNBT also will be obtaining legal advice.
7. AUNBT has been given to understand that the Province considers the *UNB Act* to be a public act, requiring extensive ***public consultation***, and that the Province has so informed UNB’s President and Board. AUNBT will participate in that process fully.

We encourage all members to ***inform themselves*** of the proposed Act revisions and ***initiate discussions*** in their departments and faculties, as well as in other groups such as the Academic Council and Research Council. See the document titled “Overview” which was sent with this memo. More information is posted at <http://aunbtweb.wordpress.com/issues/unb-act/>. The UNB.ca page is <http://www.unb.ca/secretariat/governors/unb-act-review.html>. We also encourage members to ***contact the AUNBT task force***: they need to hear from you in order to best represent your concerns.

**Contact AUNBT:**

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