



September 8, 2022

David Robinson, Executive Director  
Canadian Association of University Teachers  
2705 Queensview Drive  
Ottawa, ON K2B 8K2

Dear Mr. Robinson,

Thank you for your letter of August 3, 2022.

The University seeks out advice and recommendations from a variety of Board and Senate bodies on a variety of decisions. The Senates can and often will make reports and recommendations to the Board on academic matters of the university. Not every recommendation, report or request, however, is followed and adopted by the Board.

UNB must follow the requirements of our funding legislation, *The University of New Brunswick Act*, regarding decision making processes. Under our *Act*, decisions regarding officers and their duties falls within the purview of the Board of Governors, and Vice-Presidential involvement in academic matters is as determined by the *Act* and those assigned by the President. This is not the first time UNB has had a Provost position, and that decision was also made by the Board.

UNB abides by and takes seriously the foundational principles of academic freedom and collegial governance. Academic freedom is one of our core values within our Strategic Vision. However, academic freedom and collegial governance does not require unanimity or consensus. On the contrary, a principle is that parties can disagree and even provide respectful criticism.

Recommendations, input and reports were sought by a variety of bodies, such as what was done with the Senate. The recommendations of the Senate, for and against, were considered by the Board. My recommendations were also considered, as were others. The Board and its many constituent voices, which includes faculty members from both campuses and the mayors of both Saint John and Fredericton, considered and made a decision in May as is outlined in the *Act*.

It is an exciting time at the University, and I look forward to the continued engagement of my academic and non-academic colleagues at UNB as we move forward as one university community.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul J. Mazerolle', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr. Paul J. Mazerolle  
President and Vice-Chancellor

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