

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

REPORT OF THE JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

16 April 2026

The Joint Nominating Committee for the Office of the President continues to meet and has now completed the full consultation phase associated with the presidential search. Meetings were held throughout February and March with the Committee focused on gathering community input, refining search materials, and preparing for the next stage of candidate recruitment. Consultation activities have been extensive, drawing more than two hundred participants through meetings, surveys, and individual engagements. Feedback across all groups has been consistent in recognizing UNB's strong institutional momentum, its essential role in the social and economic fabric of New Brunswick, and the need for a leader who can maintain visibility, strengthen external advocacy, and support a highly engaged internal culture.

Community members emphasized UNB's distinctive strengths, including its collegial environment, accessible scale, and capacity for meaningful institutional impact. Feedback also highlighted the importance of a president who understands the complexities of a multi-campus, bicameral governance structure, who demonstrates sound judgment and strong interpersonal leadership, and who is able to balance internal presence with external engagement, particularly in establishing strong relationships with government and external partners. Financial pressures facing the post-secondary sector, as well as opportunities relating to research intensity, labour-market alignment, digital transformation, and Indigenous engagement, were reinforced as ongoing priorities.

The Committee received detailed reflections on the nature and demands of the presidential role, underscoring the need for resilience, strategic leadership, and the ability to support and empower other members of senior administration. Informed by both community and Committee insights, the draft job description, position profile, and advertisement have been reviewed by the Committee and will be released in April. The Committee reaffirmed that the successful candidate will ideally be appointable at the rank of full professor, while allowing limited flexibility in the event of an exceptional non-traditional candidate. Assessment criteria will focus on demonstrated success in key areas and reflect the expectation that the next president will guide the institution through rapid technological and societal change.

The Committee also reviewed its search timeline and confirmed readiness for the next phase. Recruitment efforts, supported by Boyden, will advance through the spring and summer. Bias training for Committee members will take place in late July to prepare members for reviewing the long-list candidate materials.

The work of the Committee remains on schedule. Regular updates will continue to be provided to both the Board of Governors and the Senates as the search progresses. In addition, as the Committee wishes to respect the role of the Provincial Government in appointing UNB's President, next steps also will include ensuring that the Minister of Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour is updated on the work of the Committee.

Members of the Joint Nominating Committee