

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

REPORT OF

THE JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

TO THE SENATES

January 20, 2026

In accordance with the **University of New Brunswick Act**, the Board of Governors and the Fredericton and Saint John Senates approved the appointment of members from each of those bodies to the Joint Nominating Committee for the Office of President. The members of the Committee are:

Board of Governors: Judith Begley, Board Member  
Janet Hoyt, Chair of the Board  
Janet Knox, Vice-Chair of the Board

Fredericton Senate: Viqar Husain, Department of Mathematics and Statistics  
Peter Thompson, Dean of Arts

Saint John Senate: Tim Alderson, Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies

As provided for by the **University of New Brunswick Act**, the Joint Committee may appoint a Chair from outside its membership, and has done so by inviting H. Wade MacLauchlan, UNB Chancellor. Sarah DeVarenne, University Secretary, will serve as secretary to the Committee.

The Members met on December 16 and considered expanding the number of voices engaged in Committee deliberations, with particular consideration being given to the advice of the Senates with respect to student voice and inclusion of the Piluwitahasuwin (AVP Indigenous Engagement). The Committee considered the names of student Board members and Senators who had expressed interest in serving on the Joint Nominating Committee and invited Drashtant Varma to participate with the Committee in a non-voting capacity. Drashtant is currently serving on both the Fredericton Senate and the Board of Governors. In addition, the Committee has invited Senator Todd Ross, Piluwitahasuwin (AVP Indigenous Engagement) to participate in the search in a non-voting capacity. Todd is a member of both the Fredericton and Saint John Senates.

Michelle Richard with Boyden Inc. will be providing Executive Search Consultant services for the Committee.

To date, the Joint Nominating Committee has met twice. The first meeting focused on the selection of the Chair and inclusion of a student and Piluwitahasuwin. The second meeting, which included all members of the Committee and the search consultant, included a preliminary discussion of process and procedure. The first step will be an information-gathering process to seek input and advice from the University community.

The Joint Nominating Committee is committed to ensuring ongoing communication throughout the search process and will shortly be issuing a communication announcing the selection of the Chair, the composition of the Committee and updating the community on the work of the Committee to date.

The Committee is committed to wide consultation with the UNB community in multiple venues for the development of search criteria, processes and ideal presidential profile. Once the search moves into its active phase, the Committee is committed to finding a balance between an inclusive process and respecting the confidentiality of candidates. In addition to regular reports to the Senates and Board, a presidential search page has been created at:

<https://www.unb.ca//leadership/presidential-search/index.html>

Members of the Joint Nominating Committee