

The Honourable Krista Lynn Howell  
Minister of Education  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
PO BOX 8700  
Confederation Building  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4J6

November 6, 2023

**Re: Memorial University Board of Regents**

Hon. Minister,

As a Campus Coalition representing the faculty, staff, and students of the Memorial University community, we request a lobby meeting to address issues within the Board of Regents and the Memorial University Act.

In the spring of this year, historic changes were made to the MUN Act allowing “teaching staff” representation on the Board of Regents for the first time. In the process, two Academic Staff Members in MUNFA’s bargaining unit were appointed as two of the seventeen Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council seats. While these seats are a step forward, the other on-campus unions representing teaching staff, LUMUN, several NAPE locals, and CUPE 1615, have been excluded and denied representation. As it currently stands, the two faculty positions are tenuous at best; the Board’s composition has not been officially and permanently altered to accommodate these faculty seats. In the best interests of all involved – your government, MUN, MI, faculty, students, the university community, and the province as a whole – a transparent and concrete selection and appointment process must be enshrined in the Act. Your government committed to addressing this issue, and we urge you to follow through on the process that you have begun.

Furthermore, there remain substantial issues with the process for filling the seats for the four student unions. Extended wait times after the submission of students’ names, as well as restrictive requirements for the student representatives, have severely hindered the Student Unions’ ability to effectively serve on the Board of Regents. This is unacceptable.

To reconstruct its governance system for the better, Memorial University must prioritize the complete and effective representation of all workers and students from each campus in its core governing bodies, including the Board of Regents. Given the October 2023 independent report of *The Office of the Auditor General* and the oversight concerns surrounding the Board therein, we hope the Government acts on this with the urgency that is merited.

Faculty, students, and staff have been denied effective representation on the Board of Regents for far too long. We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss this matter of critical importance to the functioning of our province's University.

Please contact Isabel Ojeda at [membership.munfa@mun.ca](mailto:membership.munfa@mun.ca) to make arrangements.

Signed,

Josh Lepawsky, President, MUN Faculty Association (MUNFA)

Bill Kavanagh, President, CUPE 1615

Jerry Earle, President, NAPE

Paul Ryan, President, Marine Institute Faculty Association (NAPE Local 7405)

Craig Cramm, President, Lecturers' Union (LUMUN)

John Harris, Executive Director of External Affairs, Communications, and Research, Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union (MUNSU)

Vicky Quao, Vice-President External, Grenfell Campus Students' Union (GCSU)

Hannah Steele, Vice-President External, Marine Institute Students' Union (MISU)

Ankan Mohajan, President, Teaching Assistants' Union (TAUMUN)

Shyam Yadav, Executive Director of External Affairs, Graduate Students' Union (GSU)

cc. Premier Andrew Furey  
Chair of the Board of Regents, Glen Barnes  
President Neil Bose

