

December 18, 2025

Heather Craniford
Assistant Deputy Minister: Post Secondary Education Branch
Department of Education
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6

Dear Assistant Deputy Minister Craniford,

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us alongside Minister Dinn. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues and opportunities facing Memorial University. We also wanted to acknowledge the promptness with which the commitment to meet with MUNFA was upheld.

We are writing to follow up on that conversation by sharing a set of Board of Regents-related recommendations concerning the Memorial University Act. These proposed amendments are intended to strengthen accountability, transparency, and collegial governance at Memorial, while ensuring the university is well positioned to serve the public interest and the people of this province. While there are further systemic issues that need attention, the following captures initial steps that would constitute meaningful and concrete progress.

Outlined below are the specific clauses and recommended amendments we discussed:

Constitution of board

22. (1) The Board of Regents of the Memorial University of Newfoundland is continued.

(2) The board shall consist of

(a) by virtue of their office

(i) the chancellor of the university,

(ii) the president of the university **who is vice-chancellor**, and

(iii) the vice-president **academic** of the university who is the pro vice-chancellor;

(b) 6 members elected by the alumni association of the university;

(c) ~~17~~ **12** members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of whom 3 shall be the same persons who are appointed under subsection 10(2.1) of the *College Act, 1996*; and

(d) 4 members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council being full-time students of the university who

(i) meet the requirements set out in the regulations, and

(ii) are recommended to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council by the board following the recommendation to the board of one candidate each from the following student unions:

(A) the Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union ,

(B) the Graduate Students' Union,

(C) the Marine Institute Students' Union, and

(D) the Grenfell College Student Union.

(3) The chairperson of the board shall be ~~appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor~~ **elected by a secret ballot by the existing members of the board** and the board shall elect 1 of its members to be a vice-chairperson **in a similar fashion (i.e. use of secret ballot).**

(4) The chairperson of the board shall be the presiding officer at all meetings.

(5) In case of the absence or disability of the chairperson, or in the case of there being a vacancy in the office of chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall possess the powers and perform the duties concerning the office of chairperson.

(6) An entry in the minutes of the board recording the absence or disability of the chairperson, or the existence of a vacancy in the office of chairperson, shall be conclusive evidence of the fact so recorded.

(7) 2 members of the St. John's campus full-time academic staff shall be elected to the board.

(8) 1 member of the Grenfell campus full-time academic staff shall be elected to the board.

(9) 2 members from the non-academic unionized staff shall be elected to the board.

NOTES: These changes will ensure better governance at the board. An elected chair will bring in fairness, democracy, and strong governance to the board. The proposed changes in the composition will ensure that the 30-member board will have equal number of elected and non-elected members. For example, 15 elected members are students (4), alumni (6), St. John's campus faculty members (2), Grenfell campus faculty members (1), non-academic-staff members (2); AND 15 non-elected members are LGIC appointed members (12) and ex-officio members (3). It is also to be noted that LGIC will directly control 40% of the board's appointments which gives the government of the time significant indirect representation on the board.

To gauge Memorial's standing in comparison to peer institutions across the country the following two charts from the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) may be of interest. These capture proportion of academic and non-academic on university governance boards by province and average composition overall.

Figure 5: Share of academic and non-academic staff on university Boards of Governors by province

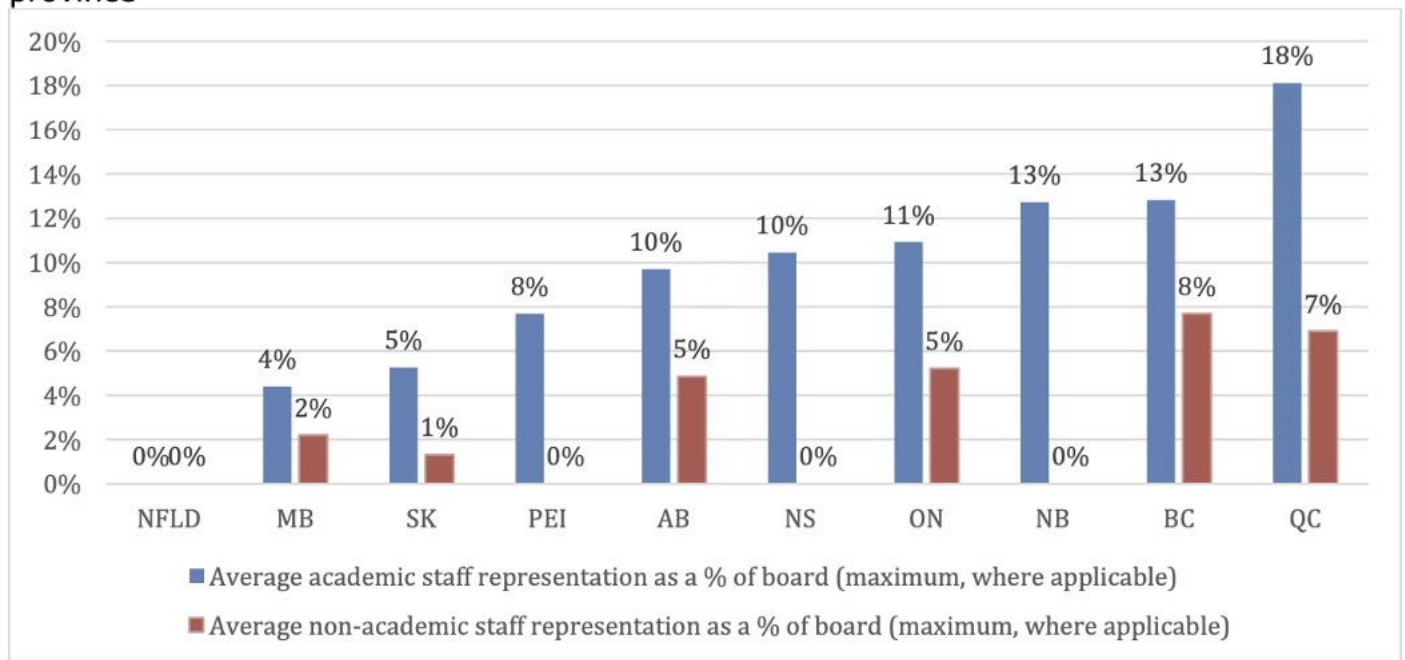
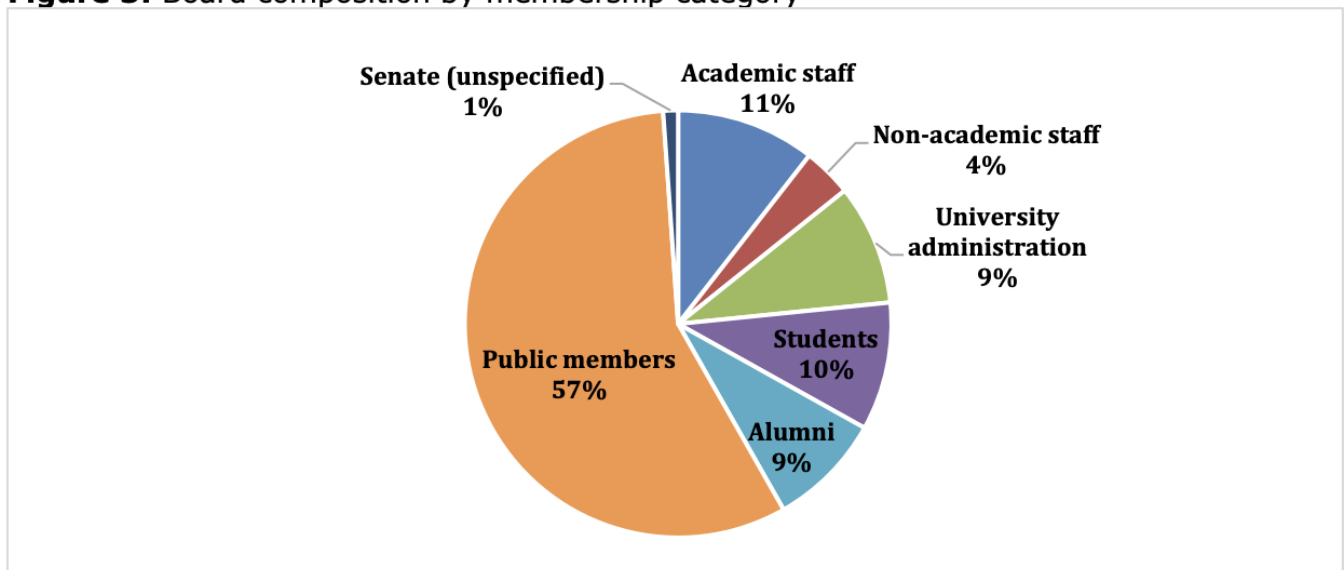


Figure 3: Board composition by membership category



Source: Canadian Association of University Teachers. (2023). Cross-Canada comparison of university & college Boards of Governors (PDF). <https://www.caut.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/cross-canada-comparison-of-university-college-boards-of-governors.pdf>

Quorum

24. ~~Seven members~~ **Fifty percent plus one of the current membership** of the board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

NOTE: This is a standard protocol based on Robert's Rules of Order.

Reappointment

27. (1) The appointed members of the board shall be eligible for reappointment. **An appointed member shall not hold office for more than 6 consecutive years.**

(2) The elective members shall be eligible for re-election, but an elective member shall not hold office for more than 6 consecutive years.

NOTE: This brings parity between elected and appointed members. Specifying the potential for re-appointment or re-election following a break of at least 3 years could also be considered to remove any ambiguity, provided this was consistent across both the appointed and elected groups.

We would welcome the opportunity to continue this conversation and to provide any additional context or clarification that may be helpful as the department considers potential updates to the Act. Thank you again for your time and engagement, and we look forward to staying in touch.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lisa Moores
President, MUNFA

c. Honourable Paul Dinn, Minister of Education
Judith Hearn, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Skills.