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In the UNB student handbook a page is devoted to a discussion of what the university president is, as far as students are concerned. Most students are aware that he is the top man in the university, and know he has a lot to do with how the university runs, and in many ways, how the university is seen by the outside world. There is no doubt that he has a lot of responsibility, or power, whichever way you look at it.

From UNB's inception, presidents were appointed without fixed terms, that is until the retirement of President Emertus Colin MacKay. At that time it was decided that a fixed-term appointment was more suitable for such an important officer. In this way, forced review of the man's performance was ensured. The first president appointed under this system was Dr. Dineen, who unfortunately did not live until anywhere near the end of his term. The second was Dr. John Anderson.

In early summer 1978, Dr. Anderson directed the attention of the Board of Governors to the fact that his appointment was scheduled to end in approximately one year from that time. A decision had to be made as to how this situation was to be handled. The Board of Governors decided that the best approach was to appoint a committee, a search committee, to examine Dr. Anderson's performance and then to recommend to the Board of Governors and the Senate (for this is a joint committee) whether or not a full search should be implemented for a president.

This committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. I. Unger, went about the business of assessing Dr. Anderson's performance in, no doubt, many ways. One, which we are aware of, was the sending of approximately 600 letters to faculty and other key people at the university. These letters asked the university community to express their opinion on the job Dr. Anderson did.

It is generally thought that the response to this letter campaign was relatively limited: 50-75 letters back. These letters, however, excited a great deal of debate in a Board of Governors meeting. The search committee had decided and made it clear, that after the letters had been examined by the committee, they would be destroyed. Some members of the Board thought that instead, the letters should be placed under seal, in the archives. In the end, the letters were to have been destroyed.

At the time of the October 1978 meeting of the Board of Governors, the search committee had made the decision that it was necessary that a full search be made of all presidential hopefuls.

This decision was communicated by the President to the Board. The Board considered the matter in some detail, and in the end, agreed with the committee that Dr. Anderson could not be automatically reappointed and that a search for potential candidates had to be made. Some days later, Dr. Anderson wrote the Board of Governors and the Senate advising them that he did not intend to reapply.

The search committee then proceeded to the business of advertising for a president in all the appropriate ways. It is thought that between 40 and 60 people applied for the job, although exact numbers are not available.

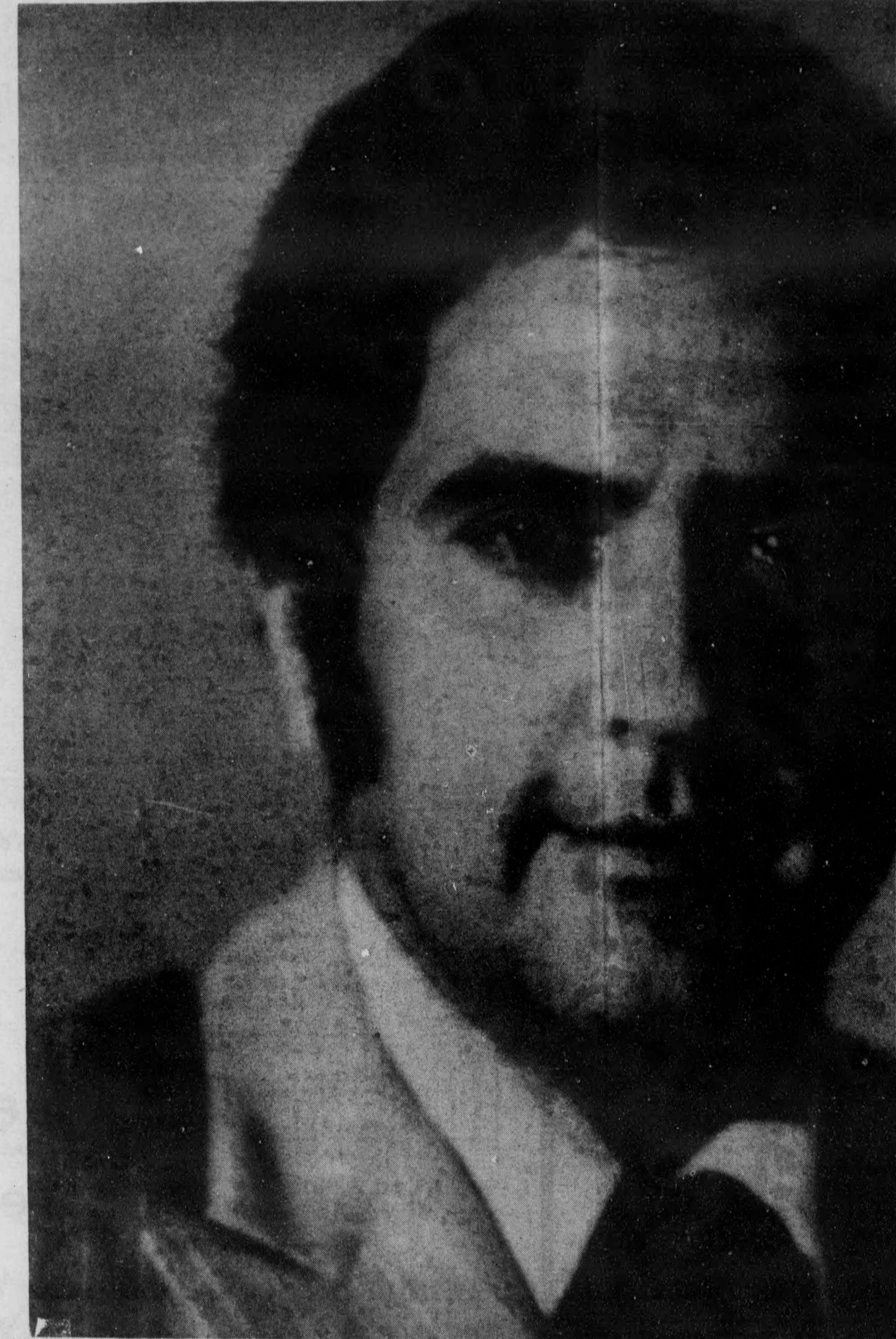
Since the matter of having a university president is very important, the Board had to appoint an acting president until such time as a new president was officially appointed. The UNB Act says that this appointment must be made from among the Vice-Presidents of the university. Only Dr. Condon from UNBSJ and J.F. O'Sullivan, Vice-President Administration, were then eligible, as Dr. Kavanagh is an acting vice-president. The Board appointed Dr. Condon.

From the time the search was to have officially ended (late in the term last year) and now, there has been a great deal of concern as to who would be nominated by the committee. The committee's security was very tight indeed, and only rumors circulated, most often contradictory. The local newspaper reported a couple of times that candidates were about to be put forward.

The action heated up again early in August. Two things happened: First, the committee came up with a recommendation for a presidential candidate; and second, quite a number of the members of Senate decided that the way the committee had done its business was unsatisfactory.

In an *in camera* session of the Senate meeting late in July, a motion was put forward containing the principle of no confidence in the search committee. When the motion was introduced, there was some question on the legality of such a motion, since the committee was a joint one, and the Senate was only one-half of the basis of the search committee. Acting President Condon, chairman of the meeting, said he had checked this, and found that the Senate had every right to express its opinion and thus the motion was acceptable. After much debate, a vote was taken which ended in a tie. Chairman Condon voted to defeat the motion. This did not necessarily reflect his personal opinion, as it is usual for a chairman when forced to vote in the case of a tie, to vote for the status quo.

The local press obtained this information and conveyed the



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impression that the sponsors of the motion did not act in an entirely responsible manner, or, failing that, that they were making things awkward for the nominee. At that same meeting, the Senate voted to not make any decision on a possible president until the university was in session. The Senate also reaffirmed that students had a right to listen to any candidates talk at the scheduled 'university community' sessions.

Part of the agreed-upon selection procedure for the president is that the candidate will give a presentation to the university community and that this gathering may ask questions. The local press decided this procedure constituted an unreasonable imposition on any potential candidates. Several

people from the university's board of governors went on record as being opposed to this procedure.

Board of Governors member Eldon Thompson stated that this procedure probably deterred potential candidates. Saint John Mayor Sam Davis (an ex-official member) was quoted in the *Telegraph-Journal* as saying the procedure was much like running for mayor, and agreed with Thompson that this aspect of the nomination procedure was not good for attracting candidates.

Editorially in the press, as well as on the radio, the criticism of this two-hour university community meeting was intense. In an editorial on August 3, 1979, former mayor (and hence former Board of Governors member) Bob Lockhart on CFBC chastised the