

Dear Members of the VP Research Search Committee,

Thank you for providing the AUNBT Executive with an opportunity to meet with you. We also appreciate the opportunity to provide further feedback on the draft position description in written format.

We offer the following observations and suggestions:

In describing the position, it seems important to acknowledge that the position's central mission is to establish, foster, maintain and/or repair a number of relationships that are crucial to the University's mission. It may be convenient to organize the job description and qualifications aspects of the position description according to these relationships.

Relationships Internal to UNB

- Faculty and Librarians
- Employees in the Office of Research Services
- UNB's management team

Relationships External to UNB

- Tri-council and other funding agencies
- Government, both federal and provincial
- Community

Supporting each of these relationships engenders responsibilities. Correspondingly, there are qualifications and characteristics of the ideal candidate that would enable the person to fulfil their mandate. For this reason, we are presenting job description and qualifications organized by relationship:

Faculty and Librarians

Job Description:

The VP Research is responsible for promoting a research-friendly environment at UNB.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate will have an extensive and varied track record of research. S/he should bring experiences of individual and collaborative, small and large-scale research projects to the position. S/he will be committed to a broad and inclusive view of research and scholarship and should place some emphasis on curiosity-driven and foundational research.

Office of Research Services

Job Description:

The VP Research is responsible for the Office of Research Services. S/he will be actively engaged in directing the Office to provide the best support for research at UNB. S/he will ensure that the office is staffed with well-balanced expertise in grant application/administration processes for all tri-council and other funding agencies. S/he will work with the staff of the office to identify areas in need of further development, and consult extensively with faculty using research services as well as granting agencies to ensure best practices to support research.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate will have experience managing professional staff in a collegial governance and unionized environment. S/he will bring thorough familiarity of the funding architectures, institutional and governmental environments of all three funding councils to the job.

UNB's Management Team

Job Description:

The VP Research is a key member of the governance structures of UNB including both Senates, the Board of Governors and the UMC. S/he advises on research issues, promotes research internally and externally and advocates for research and researchers at UNB.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate will demonstrate a collaborative and consultative leadership style, commitment to collegial governance and expertise in university affairs.

Relationships External to UNB

Job Description:

The VP Research will actively work with all three tri-council and other funding agencies to achieve the best possible research support at UNB. S/he will work with other groups of universities such as the U15 or the Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities to position UNB's researchers well within funding architectures and programs. S/he will engage government at the federal and provincial levels to advocate for research funding and support, including for curiosity-driven research. S/he will reach out, establish and maintain close ties with the community, liaison with community leaders and promote research activities at UNB to relevant communities.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate will have excellent interpersonal and communication skills within academic contexts and beyond. S/he will have experience in government relations and have a demonstrated track record of community involvement. S/he will have an understanding of the important research role of a comprehensive university and a commitment to promoting research to external partners.