

**From:** Peter McInnis  
**Sent:** March 3, 2025 12:47 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Bill 12

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I write, as a professor at a Nova Scotia university, to express my concerns with Bill 12, now before the Legislature. The re-introduction of the University Accountability and Sustainability Act (formerly Bill 100 – April 2015), is an unnecessary interference in university governance and financial independence, which undermines existing collective agreements with faculty. So-called revitalization plans, if enacted, will be implemented with meaningful consultation with faculty, students, or community members.

The failure of the provincial government to address the inevitable decline in international student enrolment should not be redirected at the federal government as both levels are to blame. Nova Scotia must commit to sustainable financial support to its post-secondary institution and move away from annual tuition increases or unrealistic dependency on international students. The resulting financial burden must not be relegated to individual universities and colleges.

Bill 12 includes the option for the government to appoint up to 50 percent of university Boards of Governors. This is an unprecedented interference in collegial governance. Universities have a unique model of governance whereby faculty play vital consultative roles at the levels of departments, faculties, senate, and boards.

Bill 12 indicates that the government will interfere with research agendas to re-align with government priorities. IT should be clear that research must be directed by educational priorities, not political, and that higher education professionals should determine this through established peer review processes. The folly of removing funding from basic (curiosity-driven) research to applied research will reduce the long-term benefits of the former. Again, political interference in highly functional vetting of research projects is ill considered and not required.

Bill 12, as tabled, is a solution in search of a problem and must be reconsidered. As the legislation was introduced without consulting any of the stakeholders, from university presidents, faculty associations, or student groups, perhaps this would be a good place to start.

Sincerely,

**Peter S McInnis, PhD**

Department of History

St. Francis Xavier University

Antigonish, Nova Scotia · Canada

t 902 867 3544

[www.stfx.ca](http://www.stfx.ca)

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