

August 4, 2008

To: New Brunswick Deans and Graduate Program Directors

From: Michael Pazzani



Re: Search for Dean of the Graduate School-New Brunswick

I write to update you on the progress of the search for a Dean of the Graduate School-New Brunswick. Both of the finalists who were recommended to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs as candidates for the position of Dean of the Graduate School-New Brunswick have, for various reasons, withdrawn themselves from consideration, so the search for a new Dean of the Graduate School-New Brunswick will be expanded into the 2008-2009 academic year. The search committee will be reconstituted over the summer so that the search can recommence at the beginning of the semester. As you know, it is not unusual for high-level searches to continue into a second year, and the committee's experience this year in weighing the relative merits of different candidates has given them a strong sense of the high standard we are setting for this position.

In order to ensure the smooth operation of the Graduate School-New Brunswick until a new dean can be appointed, Dr. Jerry Kukor has graciously agreed to serve as acting dean, beginning August 1, 2008. Dr. Kukor is currently the Dean of Academic Programs and Research at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences and at the Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Dr. Kukor, who chaired the original search committee, will continue as a member of the committee.

Although it is disappointing that the first year's search did not end in an appointment, I look forward to the successful appointment to this position in the coming year. I will continue to keep you informed as the search for a permanent replacement unfolds.