

Higher Education Quality Council

APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES June 23, 2015 12 pm – 2:45 pm

Present

Council Members:

Cindy Hazell, Interim Chair
Michael Hill
Denis Mayer

Regrets:

Chris Monahan

Absent:

Mark Stabile

Guests:

Fiona Foster, MTCU
Fiona Hack, MTCU

President and Secretary to the Board:

Harvey P. Weingarten

Staff supporting the Council:

Diana Macri, Chief Administrative Officer
Susan Bloch-Nevitte, Executive Director, Communications
Fiona Deller, Executive Director, Policy and Partnership
Ellen Permato, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

1. Call to order

The interim chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm and established that a quorum of Council members was present. She welcomed Fiona Foster from MTCU who was representing the Deputy Minister, and Chris Monahan, who were not able to attend.

She pointed out that the agenda of today's meeting did not have the First Quarter Financial Report as stated in the work plan because it is not ready. It will be submitted at the next Board meeting in September.

2. Meeting Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved by all members.

3. Approval of meeting minutes

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the minutes of the Board meeting of May 26, 2015.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Michael Hill.

Passed unanimously.

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4.1 Interim Chair's update

The interim chair reported that HEQCO has received a letter from the Deputy confirming HEQCO's budget for 2015-16.

When asked about the status of board members' appointments, Fiona Foster said that there are no updates to give on the three pending appointments: board chair, member/s, and the re-appointment of Chris Monahan.

The interim Chair noted that Mark Stabile expects to be present for the September board meeting.

4.2 President's update

The president reported that the preparation for the March *Transitions 2016* conference is proceeding. Potential keynote presenters have been approached and an advisory committee is being formed.

The *Canadian Postsecondary Performance: Impact 2015* report is still being cited across Canada.

He was invited by the Ministry of Advanced Education of Saskatchewan to give a presentation at the University of Regina on challenges and opportunities for PSE sector, how to measure and maximize quality and the contribution of measuring learning outcomes.

He mentioned that the performance indicators report will be revised/updated every two years and will expand comparisons between Ontario, Canadian provinces, the United States and other foreign countries.

He also attended a steering committee meeting of the Bay View Alliance, a network of universities conducting leading research to improve undergraduate teaching and learning. HEQCO supported the organization's project for improved postsecondary teaching with a partnership grant to the University of British Columbia in 2012. Since then the consortium has grown to include 15 universities in North America and now has secure funding.

HEQCO's work continues with New Brunswick's Ministry of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour on addressing the province's PSE challenges, and with Sue Herbert on the Ontario funding formula.

(Note: For information, copies of letters between HEQCO and New Brunswick's Ministry of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour will be circulated to members.)

5.1 Annual Report 2014-15

HEQCO is required by the Ministry to submit its annual report by July 31st.

Highlights of the discussion:

- members would like to see completion dates of research projects
- members suggested adding an acknowledgment of HEQCO's commendable research work and its impact on PSE in Ontario to the motion.

For approval.

Motion:

1. Whereas the Annual Report demonstrates HEQCO's outstanding research productivity and significant influence in key policy discussions within the Ministry

of Training, Colleges and Universities, be it resolved that the Board approves the Annual Report 2014-2015 for submission to the Minister.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Michael Hill
Passed unanimously.
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6.1 Research Plan 2015 – 16
(Fiona Hack joined in; Fiona Foster left).

H. Weingarten introduced the research plan, which is organized according to the Council's three legislated mandate areas. There are new projects but most represent a continuation of longer-term projects. The list changes as new ideas presented to HEQCO are considered, while projects that generate few RFPs are dropped. HEQCO's new CRM software system monitors and tracks the projects' status.

For clarity, the members suggested:

- an introductory paragraph to the charts
- asterisks on changes made and explanation on changes made
- description of tables
- legend to identify old and new projects
- elaborate on selection process of RFPs

For approval.

Motion:

1. That the members approve the Research Plan 2015-16 subject to the suggestions made.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Michael Hill
Passed unanimously.
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A discussion concerning the November 26th strategic planning session followed. The members asked if it should be moved to October to give the staff more time to prepare the multi-year business plan for submission to the Ministry by the beginning of December. Staff is comfortable that there is sufficient turnaround time. The meeting location should also be considered.

It was agreed that there should be an external facilitator to guide the discussion. The members and staff will recommend potential facilitators and submit their names with references as soon as possible. The decision on a facilitator will be made in September.

7. Executive Session (In camera. Board members only.)

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.