

Higher Education Quality Council**APPROVED
BOARD MEETING MINUTES****May 26, 2015
1 pm – 4 pm****Present****Council Members:**

Cindy Hazell, Interim Chair
Michael Hill
Denis Mayer
Chris Monahan

Absent:

Mark Stabile

Guests:

Deputy Minister Marie-Lison Fougère (Interim), MTCU

President and Secretary to the Board:

Harvey P. Weingarten

Staff supporting the Council:

Diana Macri, Chief Administrative Officer
Susan Bloch-Nevedt, Executive Director, Communications
Fiona Deller, Executive Director, Policy and Partnership
Richard Wiggers, Executive Director, Research and Programs
Martin Hicks, Executive Director, Data and Statistics
Ellen Permatto, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

1. Call to order

The interim chair called the meeting to order at 1 pm and established that a quorum of Council members was present. She welcomed Deputy Minister (Interim) Marie-Lison Fougère. She will give her update ahead of the other items on the agenda.

4.3 Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' update

Deputy Minister (Interim) Marie-Lison Fougère provided details on the ministry's recent activities, including:

- Highlights from Budget 2015, including the government's additional investments in the skilled trades and apprenticeship, Ontario Online, and Aboriginal Institutes.
- The launch of the university funding model review
- The announcement of the new York University – Markham Campus, which came as a result of the major capacity expansion initiative.

The deputy also provided the Board with an update on the ministry's efforts to address Board vacancies and its recent appearance at the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to discuss teaching quality.

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 April 23, 2015 as corrected (see below).

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer.

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Correction:

Under Item 1. Call to order, delete “detained”. The last sentence should read: *She welcomed Fiona Foster and Anne Scott who were attending the meeting on behalf of Chris Monahan who was in the budget “lock-up”*

4.1 Interim Chair’s update

Cindy Hazell reported that Chris Monahan and Paddy Buckley will be sharing duties as acting Assistant Deputy Minister.

She suggested that the Board work plan 2015-16 be attached to the agenda of future meetings as a reminder to members.

The members were given copies of the Premier’s mandate letter to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. They also received a copy of HEQCO’s letter to PricewaterhouseCoopers explaining why the Council has not yet received the ministry’s confirmation of its FY 2015-16 budget allocation.

4.2 President’s update

H. Weingarten informed the members that in accordance with the Board work plan, he will present a draft of HEQCO’s 2015-16 research plan at the next Board meeting of June 23rd.

He reported on the success of the *Canadian Postsecondary Performance: Impact 2015* report. It received positive reactions from various sectors all across Canada. It generated an increase in web traffic on HEQCO’s website and gained media coverage in provinces mentioned in the publication - Quebec, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

The report is seen as different from typical higher education reports because it focused on outcomes and indicators relevant to institutions, students, the general public and government.

HEQCO’s work on performance-based funding has attracted the attention of provincial governments and policy groups. The deputy ministers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia held talks with the staff as a result of the report.

He noted that HEQCO plans to hold a major education conference every two years that would attract some 400 to 500 participants. The first is planned for March 2016.

H. Weingarten emphasized that HEQCO is an evidence-based organization that routinely evaluates its own performance. A third party has been engaged to review HEQCO’s internship program. Project investigators were interviewed and many commented positively on HEQCO’s rigorous editing process.

He and Martin Hicks are part of the funding formula reference group formed by Sue Herbert. HEQCO is expected to bring added value to the discussion by identifying international best practices.

5.1 Mandate letter to Minister from Premier

A copy of the mandate letter was handed out to the members for their information. The letter expresses the Premier's thoughts on Ontario's PSE and outlines MTCU's specific priorities.

A discussion ensued on the educational needs of underrepresented groups with specific emphasis on Aboriginal Peoples.

6.1.1 Audit Committee Report

Audit Committee Chair Michael Hill reported that the external auditors were satisfied with HEQCO's audit.

The following motions were recommended by the Audit Committee.

Motions:

1. That the Board accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve the external audit report for fiscal year ending March 31, 2015

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer
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2. That the Board approve the audited financial statements for FY 2014-15 for inclusion in the 2014-15 annual report and for submission to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer
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Also, it was noted that at the last Board meeting, the Board had a draft 4th quarter financial statement. That statement has now been finalized and corresponds with the yearend financial statement.

3. That the Board approve the final 4th quarter 2014-15 financial statement for submission to the Minister.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer
May 2015/Motion 4

FY 2015-16 budget**Motion:**

1. That the Board accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve the budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer
May 2015/Motion 5

7.1 Research projects over \$100,000

The chair signs off on research projects over \$100,000. A list of the projects was submitted to the members for their information.

8. Executive Session (In camera. Board members only.)**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4 pm.