

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY COUNCIL OF ONTARIO

APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 18, 2016 12 pm – 1:30 pm

Present

Council Members:

Hazell, Cindy
Hill, Michael
Mayer, Denis

By phone

Summerlee, Alastair, Chair
Church, Leslie
Stabile, Mark

Guest:

Levy, Sheldon, Deputy Minister, MTCU

President and Secretary to the Board:

Weingarten, Harvey P.

Staff supporting the Council:

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

1. Call to order

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm and established that a quorum of Council members was present.

He called on Deputy Minister Sheldon Levy to do the MTCU update.

4.3 Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' update

The Deputy Minister informed Board members that his appointment as the Ministry's ad-hoc member of HEQCO Board will soon be made official.

Highlights of the Deputy Minister's update:

- Mandate review
- Funding formula review
- Sustainability
- Engaging aboriginal institutes
- Tuition policy
- Innovation agenda

- Highly skilled workforce
- Work-integrated learning
- Partnership with HEQCO

The Deputy meets with the chair and president of HEQCO regularly. He thinks it is important for the sector to know that MTCU and HEQCO are working together. HEQCO plays an important buffer role that is helpful to Government.

2. **Approval of meeting agenda**

Approved unanimously.

3. **Minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2016**

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the minutes of Board meeting of February 25, 2016.

Moved by Alastair Summerlee; seconded by Leslie Church

Passed unanimously

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4.1 **Chair's update**

Alastair Summerlee repeated the Deputy's comment about HEQCO/MTCU monthly meetings. One of the issues they will jointly evaluate will be the result of the HEQCO mandate review.

He reported that in accordance with the requirements of the Agencies and Appointments Directive, HEQCO has assured the Minister that the Agency is in substantial compliance with all applicable legislation, regulations, directives and policies and has maintained an effective system of internal controls that supports the integrity and reliability of our financial reports. Under this category, HEQCO has fulfilled and submitted its Board-governed Agency Attestation.

Further, in response to a request in accordance with the Broader Public Sector Compensation Information Directive, HEQCO has provided information to Treasury Board and Management Board of Cabinet on executive compensation at HEQCO.

4.2 **President's update**

Harvey Weingarten presented HEQCO's research/work plan for 2016-17. The three mandate areas are access, quality and accountability and he listed the ongoing and future projects under each area.

He reported the following:

- Front-page article in Toronto Star on measuring skills attracted a lot of media attention.
- A handbook has been published on work-integrated learning.
- Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) is funding and participating in two HEQCO projects: *Postsecondary and Workplace Skills (PAWS)* and *Essential Adult Skills Inventory (EASI)*. Participants for EASI

are: 12 colleges and 5 universities in Ontario, 1 college each in Alberta and Prince Edward Island, 1 university in British Columbia.

- Continued partnership with New Brunswick Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour.
- Sustainability is a huge project that might take 3-4 years of research work. A conceptual paper will be released in June to start the groundwork. The project will consider pension plans, impacts of mandatory retirement, workload, compensation, finances and quality of institutions, labour-related issues and productivity, among others. This is a collaborative effort between HEQCO and MTCU.
- A capstone project on differentiation will reflect more than 6 years of HEQCO research on the topic

The Transitions conference organized by HEQCO in March was attended by over 400 participants. It was a success based on the overwhelmingly favourable comments. Presentations from keynote speakers and the closing plenary were particularly well-received. Several ideas for research projects emerged from the conference as well.

Board members who attended the conference were impressed by the efficiency of the organization and the quality of the conference. They asked the president to convey their congratulations to the staff.

5.1 Board appointments

The Chair said that the time was approaching to discuss the process for new appointments to the Board and asked Cindy Hazell to work with him on drafting a document for discussion at the next board meeting.

6.1 Audit Committee report

Michael Hill reported that the Audit Committee met earlier with the auditor from Collins Barrow. It was a completely “clean” audit.

The members asked the president to congratulate and thank staff for the excellent audit results.

6.2 External audit report for Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2016

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the external audit report for fiscal year ending March 31, 2016
2. That the Board approve the audited financial statements for fiscal year 2015-16 for inclusion in the 2015-16 Annual Report and for submission to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer.

Passed unanimously

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6.3 Year end financial statement 2015-16

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the year end financial statement 2015-16 for submission to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Leslie Church
Passed unanimously
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6.4 Budget Fiscal Year 2016-17

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the budget for fiscal year 2016-17.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Mark Stabile
Passed unanimously
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7. Executive Session (Board members only)

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.