

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY COUNCIL OF ONTARIO**MINUTES
BOARD RETREAT
Delta Hotel Toronto****August 8, 2019
8am – 4pm****Board members present:**

Mayer, Denis (Acting chair)
Carson, A. Scott
Herbert, Sue
Lang, Pat
Zegarac, George

Guests:

Sawyer, Chris
Scully, Marny
Trick, David

President and Secretary to the Board:

Weingarten, Harvey P.

Staff supporting the Council:

Macri, Diana, Chief Administrative Officer
Permato, Ellen, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

1. Welcome: Overview of the day

Denis Mayer, acting board chair, called the meeting to order at 8:20 am and established that a quorum of board members was present. He welcomed and thanked the participants for coming. He also welcomed David Trick, the incoming interim president and CEO.

A round-the-table introduction of participants followed.

2. Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities update

Highlights of Deputy Minister George Zegarac's update:

- Digital learning
- Access to PSE
- Special-purpose grants for services for students with disabilities
- Free speech policy
- Trade and apprenticeship
- Skills measurement
- Fiscal sustainability

He introduced Marny Scully who gave a brief update on the Strategic Mandate Agreements Part 3.

3. President's update

Harvey Weingarten gave an overview of the current state of HEQCO and the strategies to consider as the agency moves forward:

- The business model is not conducive to multi-year projects.
- HEQCO is a very simple organization that maintains flexibility to pursue innovative, creative projects in addition to fulfilling the work in the mandate letter.
- The council should continue to create partnerships and not lose the strength gained from past work with communities of practice.
- The government is interested in using HEQCO to evaluate; as a tool in assessing value for money. Interaction with government will become a critical part of the CEO's role.
- Skills measurement — who will do it? This is an operational role.
- Ministry of Education work in math education and digital education.

He noted that he will share the digital review with the board when it is ready.

The board went in camera with Chris Sawyer, Amrop Knightsbridge representative.

4. Governance

a. Accountability/board engagement at time of transition

The board issued the following instructions in relation to the search for permanent president and CEO:

- C. Sawyer would like to meet the staff for their input to help her craft a profile of the new CEO.
- D. Macri will be the staff person at HEQCO to communicate directly with C. Sawyer.
- P. Lang will be the point person for the search.
- D. Mayer will continue to chair board meetings until the minister appoints a new chair.
- S. Herbert and A. S. Carson will continue as members of the audit committee with S. Herbert as chair.
- All communication concerning the search will be sent out in acting chair's name.

b. Board vacancies

D. Macri will check the process requirements for recommending re-appointment of Pat Lang for a second term.

5. Other business:

1. The board would like:
 - A list of yearly reporting requirements that HEQCO must fulfil according to its MOU. D. Macri will update the current list.
 - A binder of policies. D. Macri will prepare it.

2. A portfolio review by the president and CEO — one-page summaries of projects, including results — to be presented at board meetings.
 3. Research staff to make presentations of their research projects at board meetings.
 4. The next board meeting will be on September 12, 2019. Agenda items are:
 1. Risk assessment.
 2. Update on search for new permanent president and CEO
 3. Audit committee report on audit policy on remuneration and board expenses for board members
6. **Adjournment**
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**Next board meeting:
September 12, 2019, 1pm – 4pm, HEQCO offices**