

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY COUNCIL OF ONTARIO

**APPROVED
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
By teleconference
February 25, 2016
12 pm – 1 pm**

Present

Council Members:

Church, Leslie
Hazell, Cindy
Hill, Michael
Mayer, Denis
Summerlee, Alastair, Chair

Regrets:

Stabile, Mark

Guest:

Foster, Fiona MTCU

President and Secretary to the Board:

Weingarten, Harvey P.

Staff supporting the Council:

Bloch-Nevitte, Susan, Executive Director, Communications
Hicks, Martin, Executive Director, Data and Statistics
Macri, Diana, Chief Administrative Officer
Permato, Ellen, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary
Wiggers, Richard, Executive Director, Research and Programs

1. Call to order

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm and established that a quorum of Council members was present.

2. Approval of meeting agenda

Approved unanimously.

3. Minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2015

Motion:

For approval

That the Board approve the minutes of the strategic planning meeting and business meeting of November 26, 2015.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Cindy Hazell

Passed unanimously

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4.1 Chair's update

Alastair Summerlee has sent a letter to Pricewaterhouse Cooper expressing displeasure at the actions of PwC in terminating annual external audit services to HEQCO. Diana Macri spoke with the director of the Ministry's Internal Audit Division and assured him that HEQCO has had successive "clean audits" and is not the cause of the action taken by PwC.

4.2 President's update

Harvey Weingarten reported that HEQCO will undergo a mandate review, a regular procedure undertaken by the Treasury Board every five years. The Chair and senior staff members will be interviewed by a review board. No date has been provided for the completion of the review.

The Chair noted that the strategic plan is being developed and will be finalized after the result of the mandate review

Harvey Weingarten was invited to participate in roundtable discussions on *Building World Class Systems of Higher Education* by the Higher Education Authority of Ireland to be held in Dublin. Fiona Foster, MTCU's Manager of Policy and Projects Coordination Unit; and Chris Whitaker, President of Humber College, also attended.

Other activities: discussed performance measures with a representative of the Swedish Embassy in Washington; presented at the Council of Senior Administrative Officers (CSAO) on *Canadian Postsecondary Performance: IMPACT 2015*; engaged several institutions to join HEQCO on its *Online Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)*; recruited partners for the *Essential Adult Skills Initiative (EASI)*; and conducted several media interviews as a result of the front page story on *PIAAC* at Toronto Star.

The March 23-24 conference *Transitions: Learning across borders, sector and silos* continues to attract participants – 340 to date.

Ongoing: the Private Member's Bill introduced by Yvan Baker, MPP, is still on hold; as directed by MTCU, a PSE performance report that will create indicators for transparency purposes; and partnership with New Brunswick's Ministry of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour on the province's PSE system outcomes.

4.3 Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' update

Fiona Foster, Acting Director of Strategic Policy & Initiatives Branch and the Strategic Policy Transformation Branch, provided the Ministry's update to the Board as both Deputy Levy and Assistant Deputy Minister (Acting) Paddy Buckley were unable to attend, due to Budget Day commitments. Fiona provided details on the Ministry's recent activities, including:

- The outcomes and next steps of the 2016 Talent and Skills Summit, which was held on January 20, 2016;
- An update on HEQCO's mandate review;

- The release of Sue Herbert's report on the University Funding Formula review; and
- The release of a discussion paper and the announcement of consultations across the province on TCU's International Strategy.

Fiona also advised the Board that the Ministry is in the process of appointing Deputy Levy as the Ministry's representative on the board, in light of Chris Monahan's departure.

5.3 3rd quarter 2015-16 financial statement

Diana Macri reported that HEQCO is on track to expend its 2015-16 budget.

Motion:

That the Board approve the 3rd quarter 2015-16 financial statement for submission to the Minister

Moved by Leslie Church; seconded by Michael Hill

Passed unanimously

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6. Executive session (in camera; Board members only)

7. Adjournment

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