

Higher Education Quality Council

MINUTES

December 17, 2012
2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
1 Yonge Street, Suite 2402

Present

Council Members:

Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Chair
Chris Monahan

By phone:

Michael Hill

Guest:

Marie-Lison Fougère, Assistant Deputy Minister, 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 & Partnership
Richard Wiggers, Executive Director, Research & Programs
Martin Hicks, Executive Director, Data & Statistics

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and established that a quorum of Council members was present.

2. Approval of agenda

The members approved the agenda as presented.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes :

1. That the Board approve:
 - a) the Minutes of the Board Meeting of July 4, 2012

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Chris Monahan.
Passed unanimously.
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4. Updates

During this part of the agenda the Board lost the attendance of Michael Hill because phone lines in Northern Ontario were affected by a severe snowfall. Michael Hill was updated by H. P. Weingarten and D. Macri on the remaining items of the agenda at a later date and emailed (December 21, 2012) his acceptance of items 5.1 and 5.3.

4.1.1 President's update

Harvey P. Weingarten noted that the challenge for public higher education systems is to deliver a higher quality education system to more students with no more, or even less money per student. He reported on HEQCO research to date and listed research reports and @issue papers released in 2012. He also mentioned RFPs currently out for bid, and other current projects. See attached report.

4.3 Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities update

Marie-Lison Fougère attended to provide the Ministry update. Her comments focused on:

- The Discussion Paper released by the Ministry in June 2012 with emphasis on four priority themes:
 - Quality teaching and learning outcomes
 - Experiential and entrepreneurial learning
 - Technology enabled learning
 - Expanded credential offerings
- Strategic Mandate Agreements
- Tuition
- The Auditor General's Report regarding teaching quality
- The status of Board appointments
- Signed agreements between MTCU and HEQCO regarding additional fiscal support

5.1 Business Plan 2013-14 to 2015-16

Motion:

1. That Board approve the Business Plan 2013-14 to 2015-16.

Moved by Chris Monahan.

Passed unanimously.

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5.2 Second Quarter Financial Report

It was noted that the Council is on track to spend its budget this fiscal year.

5.3 Appointment of Auditors

The Chair indicated that given the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the meeting (no voting members present) and the diligence with which the RFP process was undertaken, that she accepts the recommendation that the Board approve the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as external auditors for a period of five years commencing with fiscal year 2012-13.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.