

Higher Education Quality Council**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
February 24, 2015
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm****Present****Council Members:**

Cindy Hazell, Interim Chair
Michael Hill
Mark Stabile
Denis Mayer
Chris Monahan

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 and Partnership
Martin Hicks, Executive Director, Data & Statistics
Ellen Permato, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

1. Call to order

The chair called the meeting to order and established that a quorum of council members was present. She welcomed Denis Mayer, the newly appointed board member.

2. Meeting Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved by all members.

3. Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' update

Deputy Minister Deborah Newman welcomed Denis Mayer to the HEQCO board. She thanked Cindy Hazell for diligently fulfilling her role as Interim Board Chair. She also thanked the rest of the board members for their work. She noted that the Minister is keen to fill the vacancies on the board as soon as possible.

She expressed the Ministry's congratulations and appreciation to HEQCO for celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the launch of the Rae Report - *Ontario: A Leader in Learning*.

Deputy Newman provided an update on the Ministry's recent activities. The highlights covered:

- New developments with Ontario Online, Credit Transfer, the University Funding Framework and Major Capacity Expansion
- Updates on the government's initiative to address sexual violence on campus and the work of the Advisory Committee on French-Language Postsecondary Education for Central and Southwestern Ontario.

In response to a question raised, the deputy minister noted:

- The SMA panel stressed the importance of tying funding to differentiation
- There has been a range of submissions on new campuses and the expansion of existing campuses. A rigorous evaluation process will be undertaken and will consider economic impact, demands, access to transit, alignment with local planning, innovation, program, partnerships, etc.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion:

1. That the board approve the Minutes of the board meeting of November 25, 2014 with correction: *Major Capacity Extension* should read *Major Capacity Expansion* on the 3rd paragraph of the president's update.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Mark Stabile.

Passed unanimously.

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5.1 Chair's update

The chair called the members' attention to two important items:

1. a memo from the deputy minister dated February 6, 2015 to chairs of the Ministry's agencies informing them of new and revised directives from the Ministry affecting agency appointees (see Item 7.1).
2. the internal audit report, which calls for HEQCO to have a robust board composed of 5 to 8 members. The chair also noted that this report will be discussed further in the in camera session of the meeting.

She has discussed board vacancies with the deputy and the Public Appointments Secretariat. She called on the board members to forward names of people they think would qualify for appointment. HEQCO staff can assist nominees with the required paperwork.

The interim chair also reported that she and Denis Mayer attended the mandatory governance training sessions for appointees held in February. The curriculum included a discussion of the accountability framework, the PSOA, as well as an ethics and conflict of interest component. She suggested that the Minister's mandate letter be brought to a forthcoming meeting (May) for members' information.

5.2 President's update

The president's report highlighted HEQCO's activities focusing on:

Access: How to improve access to higher education for groups that are underrepresented.

- organized a highly successful annual conference on Apprenticeships and the Skilled Trades in November;
- formed an Access and Retention Consortium (ARC) to support promising work designed to increase postsecondary participation of under-represented groups.

Quality: Are Ontario students graduating with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life and work?

- published a major paper on the skills gap and how it relates to employer expectations;
- an ongoing project examining programs used at three Ontario universities to develop writing skills in students;
- a project in the spring to evaluate the utility of an online version of PIAAC to index literacy, numeracy and basic problem solving in postsecondary students.
- evaluating bids in response to an RFP to determine the best way of measuring the transferable life skill of "resilience" in postsecondary populations.
- presented on learning outcomes to the CMEC meeting of education Deputy Minister's (K-12 and postsecondary) in Jasper. In response to the interest and feedback HEQCO

received from that presentation, the Council has organized a day-long workshop in February for government officials on how they can use measurement of learning outcomes to improve their postsecondary systems;

- in February, a series of webinars on learning outcomes and their assessment was initiated. These webinars are offered by members of the Learning Outcomes Assessment Consortium;
- a manual for practitioners on work-integrated learning, and likely to initiate a similar manual on apprenticeships. As in the past, HEQCO's manuals are an important part of its knowledge dissemination efforts to increase the influence and impact of its research.

Accountability/system design: How can Ontario provide a high-quality postsecondary education in a period of continued growth and diminishing resources?

- several research projects to document the trends in international enrolments in Ontario and examine how government policies influence the capacity and success of Ontario institutions to recruit internationally;
- publication of a major report commissioned from KPMG exploring how best to measure the economic impact of a postsecondary institution
- release of a series of analyses demonstrating differentiation from the student perspective. Previous reports have emphasized differentiation from the perspectives of the institutions, the general public, the academic community and government
- the release, in a systematic and controlled way, a series of analyses describing outcomes-based funding and its benefits to Ontario institutions and to system design. These analyses include blogs about why outcomes-based funding works, the extent to which outcomes funding is part of the funding formula in different provinces, the benefits of outcomes-based funding, and options of a well-designed outcomes-based funding formula for Ontario, including the use of intermediary bodies to allocate funding.

In response to a question, he reported that the results of the HEQCO-commissioned design-thinking project were presented to the deputy and Ministry staff. The study highlighted main concerns from the perspective of students: how to make decisions relating to the pursuit of a career and what to do after receiving their credentials.

Chris Monahan reported that the Ministry is funding a project co-founded by Ryerson University and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce called Magnet. The project uses networking technology, e.g., websites, where employers and students can connect.

The president mentioned that the performance indicators report will be released in March. The report compares 10 provinces on three dimensions: access, value to students and value to society.

He then called on Fiona Deller to report on the evaluations submitted at the HEQCO-organized conference on apprenticeship and the skilled trades held November 5-6, 2014. She noted that the:

- overall rating of the conference was excellent and very good
- overall rating of conference organization was excellent
- 83% of respondents said the conference met their expectations

A bigger annual conference is planned for 2016. The theme will be transitions.

6.1 Financial statement - 3rd quarter 2014-15

Diana Macri introduced the 3rd financial statement, which shows HEQCO's financial situation at December 31, 2014.

Motion:

1. That the board approve the 3rd quarter 2014-15 financial statement for submission to the Minister.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer

Passed unanimously.

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7.1 Updated directives

All board members have been provided with copies of the:

- New Agencies and Appointments Directive
- Addendum to the Agency Establishment & Accountability Directive
- Revised Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive

The Annual Report 2013-14 is waiting to be tabled at the Legislative Assembly. The Business Plan 2015-18 is awaiting the approval of the Minister.

The chair reminded the members of upcoming board meeting dates. The board is obliged to hold 6 meetings per fiscal year to comply with the Corporate By-Law. She asked D. Macri to prepare a one page summary of topics to be discussed at the next Board meeting.

8. Executive Session (In camera; for board members only)**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.