

Higher Education Quality Council

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2015

12:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Present

Council Members:

Hazell, Cindy, Interim Chair

Hill, Michael

Mayer, Denis

Monahan, Chris

Stabile, Mark (via Skype)

Guest:

Fougère, Marie-Lison, 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 and Partnership

Macri, Diana, Chief Administrative Officer

Permato, Ellen, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

1. Call to order

The interim chair called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm and established that a quorum of Council members was present.

2. Meeting Agenda

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the meeting agenda.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Michael Hill

Passed unanimously.

September 2015/Motion 1

3. Approval of meeting minutes

Motion:

2. That the Board approve the minutes of the Board meeting of June 23, 2015.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Michael Hill

Passed unanimously.

September 2015/Motion 2

4.1 Interim Chair's update

- The Interim Chair reminded Board members that copies of two letters between HEQCO and New Brunswick's Ministry of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour regarding research partnership were emailed to them on June 26, 2015.



- She suggested that since the Research Plan is an evolving document, the word *final* should be replaced by a *reference date*.
- She sent a memorandum to Board members and staff about political activity rights and restrictions for the upcoming elections.
- The strategic planning session on November 26, 2015 and the appointment of the new Board chair will be discussed in the in camera portion of the meeting.

4.3 Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities update

(Note: Because the Interim Deputy Minister had to leave early, she gave her update before the President's.)

Deputy Minister (Interim) Marie-Lison Fougère provided details on the Ministry's recent activities, including:

- An update on the University Funding Formula review and the Ontario Education Number (OEN);
- The release of Credential Options report commissioned by the Social Research Development Corporation (SRDC); and
- Developing a comprehensive international education strategy and a policy framework for Aboriginal Institutes.

The Interim Deputy also provided the Board with an update on the Ministry's efforts to address Board vacancies and the announcement of Sheldon Levy's appointment as the new Deputy of MTCU.

4.2 President's update

The Research Plan is being implemented and managed within the allocated budget. Cash flow and budget constraints call for a reshuffling of projects according to priority. The ongoing research projects are:

- *Performance indicators*. The new version will compare Ontario with several American states as well as other international jurisdictions.
- *Online Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIACC)*. The project will measure literacy, numeracy and basic problem solving in postsecondary populations.
- *Differentiation*. Emphasis will be placed on the students' perspectives.
- *Learning outcomes and alignment with labour markets*. Range of issues will include labour demand, courses offered by institutions, knowledge-based industries; skilled work force.
- *Transition 2016* conference. HEQCO has put together an advisory committee to help identify themes and potential speakers.

HEQCO continues to get requests from the government to do research work on such issues as the supply and uptake of graduates in Education, Nursing, Medicine, Engineering, Architecture, and Law; identify knowledge-based industries and their demands for skilled workforce.

The president reported that he will undertake various road trips to engage with PSE partners. He will visit the Arizona State University in Tempe in October. ASU is a member

of a consortium of 11 public research universities in the USA committed to making quality college degrees accessible to low-income students.

He has served as a member of several reference groups of the funding formula review led by Sue Herbert. As the Deputy reported, the consultation is over and a report is soon to be released.

He continues to give advice to New Brunswick's Ministry of Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour regarding their challenges in introducing a modern knowledge mobilization process and setting up a student financial aid system.

On the issue of data, HEQCO has been beating the drum on the importance of collecting and analyzing data. In May, a letter co-written by HEQCO, the Council of Ontario Universities, Colleges Ontario and the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer was sent to Interim Deputy Minister Marie-Lison Fougère proposing the establishment of an Ontario Education Number (OEN) steering committee with membership from the four organizations to focus on matters relating to the dissemination of OEN enabled information.

5.1 **Risk Assessment Report 2015/16**

Michael Hill, chair of Audit Committee, reported that the committee met earlier that day to review the Risk Assessment 2015 report and 1st quarter 2015-16 financial statement for endorsement to the Board.

The members expressed their concerns on the implication of "likelihood of risk" and "impact of risk," and proposed that the Board seek the Ministry's clear definition of the categories.

The Board agreed and asked Chris Monahan to provide the Board with the Ministry's answer. The Board also agreed that in the meantime, the Risk Assessment Report 2015 should be submitted on September 10, 2015 (the date it is due to the Ministry).

A second motion was added to include the Audit Committee's recommendation for clarification of the categories.

For approval.

Motion:

1. That the Board accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve the Risk Assessment Report 2015/16 as revised September 10th for submission to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.
2. That the Board ask Chris Monahan as the Ministry's representative on the Board for the intended definition and interpretation of "likelihood of risk" and "impact of risk," and if this additional information warrants a reconsideration, the Board will do so at a later date

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer.

Passed unanimously.

September 2015/Motion 3

6.1 1st quarter 2015-16 financial statement

For approval.

Motion:

1. That the Board accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve the 1st quarter financial statement 2015-16 for submission to the Minister.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Mark Stabile

Passed unanimously.

September 2015/Motion 4

7. Executive Session (In camera. Board members only.)

- Performance objectives

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.