



Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

Minutes of the Tenth Meeting held November 17, 2015 Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Saskatoon, SK

Members:	Ronald Bond (Interim Chair); Karen Barnes; Marie Battiste; Robin Fisher; Irene Lewis; Bill McLaughlin
Regrets:	Mhairi (Vi) Maeers Riel Bellegarde, President, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT)
Guests at the Invitation of the Chair:	Honourable Scott Moe, Minister of Advanced Education Gary Hutchings, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
	Representatives of SIIT: Kim Fraser-Saddleback, Vice-President, Academics and Student Services (Item 2) Angus Sanderson, Admission Officer, Learning Services (Item 8)
	By teleconference for Item 7: Faisal Arain, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) Brad Donaldson, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) Polytechnic
Secretariat:	Patti Bateman; Philip Cameron; Tammy Jones-Bonk

1. Interim Chair's Opening Remarks

Ron Bond thanked SIIT for its hospitality and welcomed Minister Moe to the meeting. A round of introductions followed.

2. Greetings from SIIT

Kim Fraser-Saddleback brought greetings to the Board on behalf of Riel Bellegarde, who was unable to attend.

3. Greetings from the Minister of Advanced Education

Minister Scott Moe thanked SIIT for hosting the meeting and expressed his appreciation to the Board for its work.

The Minister presented Certificates of Appreciation to departing Board members, Irene Lewis and Vi Maeers, for their service as inaugural members of the SHEQAB. The Minister also thanked Grant Isaac, who resigned in August 2015, for his service as the inaugural Chair of the Board, and indicated that a certificate would be mailed to him.

The Minister thanked the Board for its recommendation regarding the criteria that government should use to assess institutions seeking approval to use the term “university” in Saskatchewan. The Minister was appreciative of the Board’s comprehensive analysis of the issue that included attention to both provincial and national contexts. In spring 2016, following the Ministry’s analysis of the Board’s recommendation, the Minister will engage in discussions with his Cabinet colleagues regarding a preferred course of action.

A wide-ranging discussion ensued regarding general trends and challenges in post-secondary education in Saskatchewan and beyond. The Chair thanked the Minister for his attendance and for his engaging conversation with the Board.

4. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded (McLaughlin/Barnes) to approve the Agenda as presented. CARRIED

5. Minutes of the June 8, 2015 Meeting

It was moved and seconded (McLaughlin/Fisher) to approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2015 meeting as presented. CARRIED.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the June 8, 2015 Meeting

a) Status Update – SHEQAB Recommendation on Use of the Term “University”

Philip Cameron informed the Board that, as previously mentioned by Minister Moe, the Ministry will now consider the Board’s recommended criteria for use of the term “university” and prepare an analysis and recommendation for Cabinet’s consideration in spring 2016.

b) Chair’s and Vice-Chair’s Annual Meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education

Ron Bond reported on his meeting with Minister Moe on August 18, 2015. With Grant Isaac’s resignation having occurred just prior to the meeting, the Minister asked Ron to serve as Interim Chair pending formal appointment as Chair by an Order-in-Council. Ron agreed to serve as Interim Chair, but withheld his agreement to being appointed Chair until such time as the Board was given the opportunity to comment on the prospective appointment.

Ron noted that the meeting with the Minister also provided the opportunity to discuss various other matters, including board succession activities and the Board’s recommended criteria for use of the term “university”.

c) Board Succession

Ron Bond recused himself from the meeting and Robin Fisher assumed the chair for this agenda item.

(i) Appointment of new Chair

It was moved and seconded (Battiste/Lewis) to support the appointment of Ron Bond as Chair. CARRIED.

The Board congratulated Ron on his pending appointment and thanked him for his willingness to serve in this capacity.

(ii) Recommendation of new member to replace Grant Isaac

In September 2015, Ron Bond issued a call for the nomination of individuals to fill the vacancy that was created by Grant Isaac's departure. The Call for Nominations was sent to the executive heads of Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions and was also published on the SHEQAB website.

Sixteen highly qualified candidates were nominated, nine of whom accepted the nomination. Karen Barnes and Bill McLaughlin served as a subcommittee to vet and rank the nine candidates relative to the *SHEQAB Competency and Composition Matrix*. Particular attention was given to addressing the need for an individual with corporate business or industry acumen, as well as experience in, or considerable knowledge of, post-secondary education. Maintaining gender balance was also a consideration.

Following careful deliberation on the Subcommittee's findings, **it was moved and seconded (Barnes/ McLaughlin) to submit three names to the Minister for consideration, and, if requested by the Minister, to provide the Minister with the full list of nine candidates. CARRIED.**

It is anticipated that the Minister will confirm all appointments and re-appointments by the year's end, which will enable new appointees to attend the Board's next meeting in February 2016.

(iii) Revised Ministry Policy - SHEQAB Appointments

The Board reviewed proposed minor changes to the Ministry's policy on SHEQAB appointments. The key changes include:

- adding a reference to the Minister's authority to appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair, pursuant to section 12 of *The Degree Authorization Act*;
- incorporating the *SHEQAB Competency and Composition Matrix* as an appendix; and,
- adding detail regarding the appointment process and associated timelines.

The Board supported the proposed changes. The revised policy will now be forwarded to the Minister for approval.

d) Biennial Review of the approved Quality Assurance Standards

At the last meeting, it was agreed to proceed with a public review of the Quality Assurance standards, as required by section 11 of *The Degree Authorization Regulations*. Accordingly, following the process established in the Ministry's *Public Review of Quality Assurance Standards Policy*, a letter was sent on August 17, 2015 from Grant Isaac, then SHEQAB Chair, to the executive heads of all Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions, inviting their participation in a survey regarding the standards. The letter and survey were also published on the SHEQAB website for a 30-day public review period that closed on September 30, 2015.

The consultations resulted in positive feedback that affirmed the standards were comprehensive and addressed all necessary quality components. Apart from a minor editorial revision to one standard, no other changes were proposed by the post-secondary sector or the public; however, it was suggested that the standards be relocated to a more accessible location on the SHEQAB website.

The Board identified the need to consider adding a criterion to the Organizational Standards to require institutions to have an anti-harassment policy. The Board will give further consideration to this matter at a future meeting.

The Board will inform the Minister of the outcomes of the public review and, in due course, will recommend the appropriate revisions to the standards for the Minister's approval.

e) Status Update – Application for Authorization – Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Bachelor of Business Management

Saskatchewan Polytechnic's application remains under review by the Ministry. In September 2015, the Ministry asked Saskatchewan Polytechnic to provide additional information that will enable the Ministry to complete its assessment of the application relative to the criteria specified in section 8 of the Regulations, including how the proposed degree program will benefit Saskatchewan's learners and post-secondary system, how it will advance the social and economic priorities of the province, how it aligns with the institution's mandate, the student demand for the program and the prospects of employment for graduates, and the fiscal plan for the program.

f) Status Update – Application for Authorization – Briercrest Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

At its June 8, 2015 meeting, the Board agreed to proceed with an organizational review of Briercrest College and Seminary prior to conducting a program review of the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Subsequent to the June 8th meeting, Briercrest requested that the organizational review be postponed to 2016.

In October 2015, Briercrest informed the Board that the institution is now ready to proceed with the organizational review. The Board anticipates receiving an updated organizational self-evaluation from Briercrest for consideration at the Board's next meeting in February 2016.

7. Quality Assurance Reviews – Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Bachelor of Science in Construction Management

On September 30 and October 1, 2015, two expert panels visited the Regina campus of Saskatchewan Polytechnic to conduct quality assurance reviews on behalf of the Board.

A program review panel assessed the proposed B.Sc. in Construction Management degree relative to the SHEQAB's *Bachelor's Degree Level Standard* and the *Program Review Standards and Criteria*. The members of the program panel were Dr. Faisal Arain (Chair), Associate Dean, School of Sustainable Building and Environmental Management, NAIT; Dr. Bruce Sparling, Associate Dean, Academic, Department of Civil and Geological Engineering, University of Saskatchewan; and Dr. Sujeewa Wimalasena, Instructor, Bachelor of Science in Construction Management Program, SAIT Polytechnic.

An organizational review panel used the SHEQAB's *Organizational Review Standards and Criteria* to assess the organizational capacity of Saskatchewan Polytechnic to deliver the proposed program. The members of the panel were Brad Donaldson (Chair), Vice-President, Academic, SAIT Polytechnic; Dr. Joy McKinnon, Vice-President, Academic, Seneca College; and Dr. David deMontigny, Associate Dean (Academic), Associate Professor, Engineering, University of Regina.

The Board reviewed the panels' reports, along with Saskatchewan Polytechnic's responses to the reports. The Board was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss, by teleconference with Mr. Donaldson and Dr. Arain, the panels' findings and Saskatchewan Polytechnic's responses to them.

Following deliberations, the Board determined that it required additional information from Saskatchewan Polytechnic before making a recommendation to the Minister regarding authorization of the proposed B.Sc. in Construction Management degree. The Board will request that Saskatchewan Polytechnic provide additional information for the Board's consideration at its forthcoming winter and spring meetings.

8. Tour of SIIT

The Board was pleased to tour SIIT's Saskatoon campus with Mr. Angus Sanderson and to hear about the array of programs and services offered by the institution.

9. Review of Annual Monitoring Reports - Authorized Degrees

a) Saskatchewan Polytechnic – Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing

The Board reviewed Saskatchewan Polytechnic's 2014 - 15 monitoring report for the Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing program and was satisfied that Saskatchewan Polytechnic is continuing to meet the terms and conditions of authorization. The Board will report its findings to the Minister.

b) Briercrest College and Seminary – Bachelor of Arts in Humanities

The Board reviewed Briercrest's 2014 - 15 monitoring report for the Bachelor of Arts in Humanities program and was satisfied that Briercrest is continuing to meet the terms and conditions of authorization. The Board will report its findings to the Minister.

10. Associate Degrees

Associate degrees fall under the purview of the Act. Presently, Briercrest College and Seminary is the only Saskatchewan post-secondary institution that offers Associate degrees, and three of Briercrest's Associate of Arts degrees are grandfathered until June 30, 2020 pursuant to subsection 4(3) of the Act and section 3 and Table 1 of the Regulations.

Quality assurance standards have not yet been developed for Associate degrees. To determine if there is a need for the Board to begin to develop such standards, Briercrest College and Seminary was asked to confirm its intentions with regard to continuing to offer Associate degrees beyond June 30, 2020, the end of the grandfathering period. On September 16, 2015, Briercrest College

and Seminary indicated that it does not intend to do so; accordingly, the Board will not prioritize the development of standards for associate degrees.

11. Alumna concern

The Minister has asked the SHEQAB to look into a concern that has come forward from a former student of a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution. Karen Barnes and Robin Fisher will undertake a review of the concern on behalf of the Board. The Board will report back to the Minister in due course.

12. Ministry Updates

a) Amendments to the Regulations

The Board was informed of amendments to the Regulations that came into effect October 21, 2015:

- an extension of the grandfathering period to June 30, 2020 from November 30, 2016 (section 3);
- revisions to section 6 and Table 3, the nomenclature requirements for theological degrees; and,
- revisions to Table 1, the list of grandfathered institutions and programs.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 9, 2015 in Regina.

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded (Fisher/Battiste) to adjourn the Meeting. CARRIED.