



Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

Minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting held February 14, 2017

University of Saskatchewan – Administration Building

Saskatoon, SK

Members: Ronald Bond (Chair), Karen Barnes (Vice-Chair), Marie Battiste, Thomas Chase, Robin Fisher, Fay Myers, Asit Sarkar

Guests at the Invitation of the Chair: Ms. Oleksandra Sakhno, Executive Intern, Deputy Minister's Office, Ministry of Advanced Education

Secretariat: Patti Bateman, Philip Cameron, Tammy Jones

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Ronald Bond welcomed everyone and acknowledged the University of Saskatchewan for its hospitality.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Minutes of the June 15, 2016 Meeting

It was moved and seconded (Myers/Fisher) to approve the Minutes of the October 20, 2016 meeting as presented. **CARRIED.**

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of the October 20, 2016 Meeting

a) Postponement of Retreat

The retreat that was to be held on February 15, 2017 has been postponed until Spring 2017. It is anticipated the 2017 review of *The Degree Authorization Act* and Regulations will be used as the thematic framework for the retreat.

b) Standards for 3-Year Degrees

Following research and consultations with the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, and Briercrest College and Seminary, the Secretariat provided the Board with proposed standards for 3-year degrees, including credit distribution and learning outcome requirements. The Board requested a few edits to the proposed standards and asked the Secretariat to present its final product at the Spring 2017 meeting.

c) Monitoring

Oleksandra Sakhno presented the Board with proposed requirements for summative reviews that will be conducted for degree programs due for renewal of authorization. In developing the proposed summative review process, consideration was given to the monitoring and renewal-of-authorization requirements in other jurisdictions as well as principles and approaches well-suited to Saskatchewan. The Board provided feedback and asked the Secretariat to bring forward a revised version at its Spring 2017 meeting.

d) SHEQAB recommendation – “University Criteria”

This matter has not yet moved forward from the Minister to Cabinet as originally anticipated.

e) SHEQAB recommendation – extend periods of authorization of 3 degrees

The Minister of Advanced Education continues to deliberate on the Board’s recommendation to extend the periods of authorization for Saskatchewan Polytechnic’s Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing and Briercrest’s Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Bachelor of Arts in English/English Honours programs.

f) SHEQAB recommendation – changes to Organizational Standards 3.2 & 7.1

The Minister of Advanced Education continues to deliberate on the Board’s June 30, 2016 recommendation (to Minister Moe) to revise the organizational standards to make explicit the need for an institution to meet its obligations under *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* and *The Saskatchewan Employment Act, 2014*.

g) SHEQAB recommendation – Board nominee

There has not yet been a decision regarding the Board’s July 8, 2016 recommendation to appoint a new member to the Board to replace departing member Bill McLaughlin.

h) Universities Canada – new bylaw and policy on non-discrimination

On October 26, 2016, Universities Canada membership voted in favour of a new bylaw and policy that will explicitly require member institutions to ensure that their policies and practices do not discriminate on any of the prohibited grounds.

5. Applications under review

a) Briercrest College and Seminary – BA in History/History (Honours)

In January 2017, the Board received a letter from the Minister of Advanced Education asking for its advice on Briercrest’s request to have the terms and conditions of authorization amended for its BA in History/History (Honours) program, which is authorized for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021. The Board discussed the matter and agreed on a positive recommendation to the Minister.

b) Briercrest College and Seminary – BA in Psychology/Psychology (Honours)

The Board reviewed the additional information submitted by Briercrest in response to matters, including enrolment and financial data, arising from the April 2016 Organizational Review. Consequently, the Board will proceed with a Program Review of the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Psychology (Honours) in Fall 2017.

6. Chair's Annual Letter to the Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Sector (draft for review)

The Board reviewed and provided feedback on the SHEQAB's 2016 year-in-review letter from Chair, Ronald Bond, addressed to the Saskatchewan post-secondary sector and other stakeholders. The letter will be distributed within the next few weeks.

7. Ministry Updates

Philip Cameron updated the Board on the following items:

a) New Chief of Staff

The Minister of Advanced Education has a new Chief of Staff, Angela Currie.

b) Blackboard

The Secretariat is considering the use of Blackboard as an information management system and means of communicating and sharing resources with the Board.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will take place on June 14, 2017 in Regina, preceded by the retreat on June 13, 2017.

Adjournment