



Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting held September 25, 2014 First Nations University of Canada, Regina, SK

Members:	Grant Isaac (Chair); Ronald Bond (Vice-Chair); Karen Barnes; Marie Battiste; Robin Fisher; Irene Lewis; Bill McLaughlin
Regrets:	Mhairi (Vi) Maeers
Guests at the Invitation of the Chair:	Honourable Kevin Doherty, Minister of Advanced Education (for lunch and greetings); Dr. Mark Dockstater, President, First Nations University of Canada (for greetings); Dr. Neil Besner and Dr. John Stubbs (by teleconference for item 5) Reg Urbanowski, Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education
Secretariat:	Patti Bateman; Philip Cameron; Tammy Jones-Bonk

1. Greetings from the President of the First Nations University of Canada

Dr. Mark Dockstater brought greetings from the First Nations University of Canada and provided an historical overview of the relationship between First Nations people and Canada and the role the University will play in its continuous evolution.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Minutes of the June 4, 2014, Meeting

It was moved and seconded (Fisher/Bond) to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2014, meeting. CARRIED.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of the June 4, 2014, Meeting

a) Report from the Subcommittee on Board Succession Planning

The Board reviewed an updated Competency and Composition Matrix and a proposed new policy addressing Board composition, appointments and re-appointments.

It was moved and seconded (Lewis/Battiste) to approve in principle the Competency and Composition Matrix and policy as presented and further revised at the meeting. CARRIED.

The documents will be sent to the Minister for approval.

b) Minister's Meeting with Board Chair/Vice Chair

The Honourable Kevin Doherty was appointed Minister of Advanced Education on June 5, 2014. Minister Doherty met with the SHEQAB Chair and Vice-Chair on September 24, 2014, to discuss the work of the Board as well as Board renewal and succession planning.

c) Updates on Status of Other Items from the Minutes of June 4, 2014, Meeting:

Deputy Minister's Policy Panel

A report written by the Policy Panel of the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education is expected to be released in the near future and, when available, a copy will be provided to the Board.

Distance Education Supports and "Physical Presence" Criteria

The Secretariat will continue to work towards developing a policy that articulates how in-province supports provided by out-of-province institutions that offer distance education in Saskatchewan will be considered relative to the provisions of section 2 of *The Degree Authorization Act* (i.e., the definition of 'providing a degree program') and section 3 (physical presence criteria).

Contact with the Saskatchewan Association of Theological Colleges regarding nomenclature for theological degrees

The Ministry will consult with stakeholders prior to changes being made to the nomenclature requirements for theological degrees that are included in *The Degree Authorization Regulations*.

INQAAHE membership

The Secretariat has experienced difficulty with the online process for registering with INQAAHE. The Secretariat will continue to engage INQAAHE to confirm the Board's membership.

Saskatchewan Quality Assurance Conference 2015

A Quality Assurance Conference will be held June 9 to 11, 2015, in Regina. The Ministry has engaged the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGSPP) to provide conference planning services. A planning committee has been formed and includes the participation of Dorothy Rogers (Degree Quality Assessment Board, British Columbia), Marilyn Patton (Campus Alberta Quality Council), the SHEQAB Secretariat, and JSGSPP representatives. The theme of the conference will be innovation and challenges in quality assurance; subthemes may include learning outcomes, international/transnational education and best practices.

5. Current Applications

The Board deliberated on the findings of the following two program reviews that were conducted by external panels in June 2014 at Briercrest College and Seminary:

a) BA in English/English (Honours)

Dr. Neil Besner, panel Chair for the BA English/English (Honours) review, provided an overview of the panel's findings.

It was moved and seconded (Bond/Lewis) to recommend that the Minister authorize the BA English/English (Honours) program with conditions. CARRIED.

b) BA in History/History (Honours)

Dr. John Stubbs, panel Chair for the BA in History/History (Honours) review, provided an overview of the panel's findings.

It was moved and seconded (Fisher/Battiste) to recommend that the Minister authorize the BA History/History (Honours) program with conditions. CARRIED.

Dr. Besner and Dr. Stubbs also reported on certain organizational elements that the Board had requested be considered by the panels in conjunction with the program reviews.

6. Authorized Degrees – Monitoring Reports

The Board reviewed monitoring reports relative to the first year of delivery (2013-14) for the following two degrees that were authorized in July 2013:

a) SIAST (now Saskatchewan Polytechnic) Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing

It was moved and seconded (Bond/Barnes) to accept the Saskatchewan Polytechnic (Sask Polytech) Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing monitoring report and recommend to the Minister that the letter of authorization be revised to remove conditions that have been met to date. CARRIED.

b) Briercrest BA in Humanities

It was moved and seconded (McLaughlin/Barnes) to accept the Briercrest BA in Humanities monitoring report and recommend to the Minister that the letter of authorization be revised to remove conditions that have been met to date. CARRIED.

(Note: Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined that no changes will be made to the letters of authorization. Rather, the institutions will be informed of the conditions which the SHEQAB considers to be met.)

7. New Referrals to the Board

The Board was informed that on September 24, 2014, the Lieutenant Governor in Council approved the following two *Applications for Authorization* and referred them to the Board for quality assurance reviews:

a) SIAST (now Sask Polytech) Bachelor of Science in Construction Management

The Board was informed that Sask Polytech is not planning to launch the Bachelor of Science in Construction Management until 2016. Sask Polytech plans to submit its program self-evaluation by mid-December 2014.

b) Briercrest BA Psychology

The Board decided to defer consideration of the BA Psychology application.

8. Use of the Term “University”

The Minister has requested the Board’s advice regarding the criteria to be used by the Ministry to assess requests from institutions seeking permission to use the terms “university” and “varsity” pursuant to section 6 of the Act. The Secretariat will further define next steps for this process and engage Board members.

9. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) Considerations

The SHEQAB is subject to the FOIPP legislation and access requests may be received by the SHEQAB Chair or the Ministry. The Secretariat will address FOIPP considerations in various SHEQAB and Ministry documents to ensure all parties involved in the degree authorization process are informed of FOIPP legislation and associated considerations.

10. Other Business

a) Quality Assurance of Diplomas and Certificates

The Ministry will explore the quality assurance of non-degree programs including diplomas and certificates.

b) Farewell to Dr. Reg Urbanowski

Board members expressed their appreciation to Reg Urbanowski for his guidance during the early years of the SHEQAB’s existence and wished him well as he leaves the Ministry for another opportunity.

11. Next and Future Meetings

The next SHEQAB meeting has been scheduled for February 10, 2015, in Saskatoon.

Adjournment

With all business completed, the Chair adjourned the meeting.