



## Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

### Minutes of the Fifth Meeting held February 13, 2014 SIASST Administrative Offices, Saskatoon, SK

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- Members:** Robin Fisher (acting Chair); Karen Barnes; Irene Lewis; Mhairi (Vi) Maeers (by teleconference\*); Bill McLaughlin
- Regrets:** Grant Isaac (Chair); Ronald Bond (Vice-Chair); Marie Battiste
- Guests at the Invitation of the Chair:** Larry Rosia, President, SIASST - for Agenda Item 1  
Reg Urbanowski, Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education
- Secretariat:** Patti Bateman; Philip Cameron

\*Dr. Maeers joined the meeting for a short period by teleconference, providing a quorum for voting purposes.

#### 1. Greetings from the President of SIASST

Dr. Larry Rosia brought greetings from SIASST and presented an overview of recent developments at the institution.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

An item on Board succession planning was added to the agenda.

#### 3. Minutes of the October 23, 2013 Meeting

No changes were made to the Minutes of the October 23, 2013, meeting.

#### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes of the October 23, 2013, Meeting

##### a) Graduate Standards

The Board reviewed new versions (January 14, 2014) of the organizational and program standards that now incorporate incremental standards and criteria for graduate-level programs (i.e., Master's and doctoral programs) as well as requirements for programs that use blended, distributed or distance education delivery models.

The Board also reviewed a new document, *Graduate Degree Level Standards (January 14, 2014)*, which includes the degree-level standards for Master's and doctoral programs drawn from the Canadian Degree Qualifications Framework and a program typology used by the Campus Alberta Quality Council. It was agreed that within the typology, "M.Ed." should be added as an example of a thesis-based program offered in Saskatchewan.

**It was moved and seconded (Lewis/Barnes) to recommend that the Minister approve the documents as presented, with the revision noted above. CARRIED.**

**b) Monitoring Framework**

The Board reviewed a new version (January 20, 2014) of the proposed *Annual Monitoring Framework for Authorized Degree Programs*, which outlines the reporting requirements for institutions offering authorized degrees.

**It was moved and seconded (McLaughlin/Lewis) to approve the new version as presented. CARRIED.**

**c) Associate Degrees**

There were no new developments to report regarding associate degrees. The Board will continue to monitor the outcomes of the provincial review of the associate degree credential recently undertaken by the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT).

**5. Briercrest Degree Plan**

The Board expressed its appreciation to Briercrest College and Seminary for submitting its *Briercrest College Degree Plan, 2013-2018* of February 17, 2014. The document will inform the work of the Board as it proceeds with the review of the two Briercrest degree applications currently under consideration.

**6. Degree Plan Template**

The Board reviewed the draft *Institutional Degree Plan Template (ver. November 22, 2013)* that was developed by the Ministry to serve as a guideline for institutions preparing degree plans. The Board did not recommend any changes to the document.

**7. Current applications**

**Briercrest BA English/English (Honours) and BA History/History (Honours)**

Following discussion regarding the need for a full organizational review, it was decided that, at this time, only certain organizational elements need to be addressed. Accordingly, the Board will proceed with a *partial* review of each program, which, pursuant to section 2 of the Regulations, will include a program review and certain elements of an organizational review as specified by the Board.

**It was moved and seconded (Maeers/Barnes) to proceed with a partial review of the Briercrest BA English/English (Honours) program and a partial review of the Briercrest BA History/History (Honours) program. CARRIED**

Briercrest's Program Self-Evaluations were tabled with the Board and will be provided to the program review panels.

## 8. Ministry Updates

Dr. Reg Urbanowski reported on the following initiatives:

### a) SHEQAB On-line Learning Community

The Ministry has established an on-line learning community for the SHEQAB as part of the Public Service Without Borders social community of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC).

### b) Amendment of *The Degree Authorization Act* and *The Degree Authorization Regulations*

The Ministry is proposing to amend the Act and the Regulations. Consultations with Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions and the public will commence in March 2014.

### c) Council of Ontario Universities – Quality Council (COUQC) 2014 Conference on Learning Outcomes

The COU-QC will hold a conference on learning outcomes in fall 2014. To secure financial support from the Ministry for Board/Secretariat participation in these kinds of activities, the Board will develop a statement addressing its professional development needs.

### d) Saskatchewan QA Conference 2015

The Ministry is exploring the possibility of Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta co-hosting a quality assurance conference in spring 2015. The conference would support collaboration under the New West Partnership Trade Agreement and would focus on current issues and trends related to quality assurance in transnational/international education as well as innovative approaches to institutional quality assurance.

### e) SHEQAB Re-appointments

In fall 2015, Board members will become eligible for re-appointment for a second three-year term. The re-appointment process will be addressed at the next meeting.

### f) TransNational Education

Discussions to date have been informed by the British Council's report *The Shape of Things to Come. The evolution of transnational education: data, definitions, opportunities and impacts analysis*. ([www.britishcouncil.org/sites/britishcouncil.uk2/files/the\\_shape\\_of\\_things\\_to\\_come\\_2.pdf](http://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/britishcouncil.uk2/files/the_shape_of_things_to_come_2.pdf))

### g) Saskatchewan Theological Colleges

The province's theological colleges have formed a voluntary self-advocacy association to promote quality assurance based on the standards of the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE).

### h) International Education Strategy

The province recently announced an International Education Strategy, with the goal of doubling the number of international students by 2020.

### i) French language MOU

The Government of Saskatchewan, along with the Assemblée Communautaire Fransaskoise (ACF), University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, SIAST, College Mathieu and other post-secondary institutions, recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to support the development of French language education programs and services for students in Saskatchewan.

**j) Deputy Minister's Growth and Sustainability Committee**

The Committee continues to work on initiatives related to shared library resources, common procurement processes, and credit transfer.

**k) Western Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (WestCAT) 2014**

Saskatchewan will host the WestCAT in fall 2014. As part of the event, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) will offer an open symposium on learning outcomes.

**l) Deputy Minister's Policy Panel**

In its final report expected in May 2014, the Panel will discuss trends in post-secondary education as well as opportunities for innovation.

**m) Disability Strategy**

The Ministry is a key player in the development of a government-wide disability strategy that will address a broad array of disability issues. The Strategy is expected to be ready by late 2014 or early 2015.

**n) Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) – Global QA Standards**

CHEA has questioned whether there is a need for global QA standards. While there is no move to develop global standards at this time, QA agencies are being encouraged to align their standards and criteria with those of international bodies such as UNESCO.

**o) Provincial Budget**

The provincial budget will be delivered within the next few weeks.

**9. What is a 'University'?**

The Board will advise the Minister regarding the criteria to be used by the Ministry to assess requests from institutions seeking university status in Saskatchewan. Within the next few months, the Ministry will establish a working group to develop the criteria. The working group will have a diverse membership and will include representation from the Board and Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on June 4, 2014.

**Adjournment**

With all business completed, the Chair adjourned the meeting.