



Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting held June 4, 2014 Briercrest College and Seminary, Caronport, SK

Members:	Grant Isaac (Chair); Ronald Bond (Vice-Chair); Karen Barnes; Marie Battiste; Robin Fisher; Irene Lewis; Mhairi (Vi) Maeers; Bill McLaughlin
Guests at the Invitation of the Chair:	Dr. Michael Pawelke, President, Briercrest College and Seminary (for greetings and campus tour) Reg Urbanowski, Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education
Secretariat:	Patti Bateman; Philip Cameron

1. Greetings from the President of Briercrest College and Seminary

Michael Pawelke brought greetings from Briercrest and provided a brief overview of the institution and its student population. He then led a tour of the campus.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded (Barnes/Fisher) to approve the Agenda as presented, with the addition of an item regarding a future meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education. CARRIED.

3. Minutes of the October 23, 2013, Meeting

It was moved and seconded (McLaughlin/Fisher) to approve the Minutes of the October 23, 2013, meeting. CARRIED.

4. Minutes of the February 13, 2014, Meeting

It was moved and seconded (McLaughlin/Lewis) to approve the Minutes of the February 13, 2014, meeting. CARRIED.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the February 13, 2014 Meeting

a) New Quality Assurance Standards

On May 14, 2014, the Minister approved the new quality assurance standards incorporating incremental requirements for graduate-level programs. The standards will now be prepared for posting on the SHEQAB website.

b) Board Succession Planning

The Board will form a subcommittee to address membership renewal and succession planning. As part of its work, the subcommittee will revisit the board competency matrix to assess whether any changes are required.

c) Monitoring of Authorized Programs

The Board reviewed the 2013-14 reporting requirements as they related in particular to Briercrest's BA Humanities and SIAST's Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing degrees.

6. Status of Current Applications Under Review

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

Two review panels will visit the Briercrest campus on June 17 and 18 to review the BA English and BA History programs. Jointly, the panels will also consider certain organizational elements as determined by the Board. The panels' reports, and Briercrest's responses to them, will be addressed at the Board's fall 2014 meeting. The Board expressed its appreciation to the individuals who are serving on the panels.

7. Deputy Minister's Policy Panel

In spring 2013, Dr. Louise Greenberg, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education, formed a Policy Panel to consider trends impacting the Saskatchewan post-secondary sector to 2030. As a member of the Policy Panel, Grant Isaac spoke briefly about the Panel's findings and how they point to an increasing connectivity amongst Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions. The Board discussed how the work of the Panel appears to intersect in several areas with the work of the Board. It was agreed that opportunities for future dialogue with the Panel will be explored.

8. Policy Discussion

The Board discussed its role relative to the Ministry's ongoing development of new policies and procedures related to the degree authorization process. Board members expressed an interest in engaging in policy discussions if the Ministry can provide additional resources (beyond the Secretariat) to assist with such work.

The following policy items were discussed:

a) Joint Degree Partnerships between Saskatchewan's Universities and other Saskatchewan Post-secondary Institutions

The Ministry is considering amending section 5 of *The Degree Authorization Regulations* to exempt from the application of *The Degree Authorization Act* joint degree partnerships between Saskatchewan's two universities and other Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions. The Board reviewed potential exemption criteria and noted it would be important for an institution that is partnering with either university to have undergone an organizational review, the nature of which should be determined by the SHEQAB.

b) Distance Education Supports and ‘Physical Presence’ Criteria

There is a need for policy to address whether or not certain distance education supports and outreach activities that are provided in Saskatchewan by out-of-province institutions, such as tutoring and exam invigilation, constitute “*providing a degree program*” and “*physical presence*” as defined in the Act. The Board discussed the rapidly evolving nature of distance delivery (e.g., MOOCs; open source programs) and the potential need for ancillary standards in this area.

c) Delivery of Authorized Degrees through Brokerage Arrangements

The Board discussed the potential delivery of authorized degrees through brokerage arrangements and concurred that an institution intending to offer a degree through a brokerage arrangement with another post-secondary institution must be clear in its initial application for authorization about how it plans to implement a brokered delivery model. It was noted that authorizations are typically site specific and contingent upon facilities and resources. A period of consolidation, enabling the program to mature and produce graduates, is also desirable.

9. Ministry Updates

Reg Urbanowski reported on the following items:

a) New Applications Received

In April 2014, the Ministry received applications for authorization from:

- Briercrest for a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Psychology (Honours); and
- SIAST for a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management.

Following a 30-day public review period ending June 7, 2014, the applications will be assessed by the Ministry and then referred to Cabinet for consideration later in the summer. If Cabinet approves the applications, they will be referred to the SHEQAB in fall 2014.

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

The Ministry proposes to amend subsection 4(3) of the Act to remove the end date of the grandfathering period so that the end date will be specified only in the Regulations. The proposed legislative amendment is expected to be brought forward in the fall 2014 Session of the Legislative Assembly. A separate regulatory amendment package will be proposed later in 2014-15 and will include an amendment extending the grandfathering period to June 30, 2020, from November 30, 2016. Nomenclature requirements for theological degrees will also be amended to better support differentiation of theological and non-theological degrees. In this regard, the Board suggested that the Ministry approach the newly established Saskatchewan Association of Theological Colleges to explore how theological colleges might assist with differentiation.

c) Saskatchewan QA Conference 2015

Plans are proceeding for Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta to co-host a quality assurance conference the week of June 8, 2015. The conference will provide an opportunity for quality assurance agencies from across Canada to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest.

d) Council of Ontario Universities – Quality Council (COUQC) 2014 Conference on Learning Outcomes, October 16-17, 2014, Toronto, ON

Pending budgetary approval, Patti Bateman will attend the Conference and report back to the Board at its next meeting.

e) INQAAHE Membership

The Secretariat is working with INQAAHE to finalize the Board's membership.

10. Meeting with New Minister

In the event the Premier appoints a new Minister of Advanced Education in a Cabinet re-organization that is expected soon, the Board will request a meeting with the new Minister to discuss various issues.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for November 6, 2014, in Saskatoon; however, the Secretariat will re-poll members to determine if an earlier date is feasible.

Adjournment

With all business completed, the Chair adjourned the meeting.