



## Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting held June 15, 2016

Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre

University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

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Members:	Ronald Bond (Chair); Thomas Chase; Robin Fisher; Bill McLaughlin; Fay Myers; Asit Sarkar
Guests at the Invitation of the Chair:	Dr. Peter Stoicheff, President, University of Saskatchewan (for greetings) Mr. Kehan Fu, President, University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (for greetings) Dr. John Stubbs, Chair, Organizational Review Panel (by teleconference for item 7a)
Secretariat:	Patti Bateman; Tammy Jones-Bonk; Philip Cameron
Regrets:	Karen Barnes (Vice-Chair), Marie Battiste

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### 1. Chair's Opening Remarks

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

### 2. Greetings from Dr. Stoicheff

Dr. Stoicheff brought greetings on behalf of the University and spoke about the University's indigenization efforts and goals for promoting Aboriginal student success.

### 3. Greetings from Mr. Kehan Fu

Mr. Fu brought greetings from the University of Saskatchewan's Students' Union and highlighted matters related to internationalization on campus on which he will focus during his term as President.

### 4. Approval of Agenda

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

### 5. Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting

**It was moved and seconded (McLaughlin/Fisher) to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2016 meeting as presented. CARRIED.**

## 6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting

### a) Alumna's concern

Ronald Bond informed the Board that he wrote to the Minister of Advanced Education advising him of the action taken by the Board, at the Minister's request, to address a concern brought forward in 2015 by an alumna of a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution. No further action on the part of the Board is required.

### b) Changes to Application for Authorization Process

Philip Cameron informed the Board that the Ministry of Advanced Education will now require a Saskatchewan public post-secondary institution to submit a draft program proposal and meet with Ministry officials in the fall preceding the year in which the institution intends to apply for authorization of a degree. The mandatory meeting will be an opportunity for dialogue about the proposed degree in advance of the formal application process.

The Ministry will also require a Saskatchewan public post-secondary institution to submit a degree plan prior to submitting an application for authorization. The Ministry has modified its degree plan template to provide more clarity and guidance to institutions regarding the type of information that should be included in a degree plan. Changes to the template align with recent updates that the Ministry has made to the *Instructions for Institutions Applying for Authorization Pursuant to The Degree Authorization Act*.

The Board received, as information, a copy of the updated degree plan template.

### c) Revisions to SHEQAB Organizational Standards

The Board discussed proposed changes to two Organizational Standards:

- Standard 3.2 Institutional Conduct: the addition of a criterion that requires an institution to have in place policies and practices that ensure it will meet its obligations under *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* and *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*; and
- Standard 7.1 Student Protection and Awareness: the addition of a criterion that ensures students will be informed, prior to registration, of their rights and responsibilities.

**It was moved and seconded (Chase/Fisher) to recommend that the Minister approve the proposed changes to the organizational standards. CARRIED.**

## 7. Applications under review

### a) Briercrest College and Seminary – BA Psychology

The Board reviewed the report prepared by the organizational review panel that visited Briercrest April 21 – 22, 2016, the members of which included Dr. John Stubbs (Chair), Emeritus Professor of History and former President of Simon Fraser University; Mr. Fred Verwoerd, Vice-President of Administration and Finance, Redeemer University College; and Dr. Joseph Piowar, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Regina.

Dr. Stubbs joined the meeting by teleconference to discuss the panel's findings and answer questions.

Following deliberations, the Board agreed to defer proceeding with a program review of the proposed BA Psychology and to request additional information from Briercrest regarding various matters raised during the organizational review.

**b) Saskatchewan Polytechnic - Bachelor of Construction Management**

The Board was satisfied with Saskatchewan Polytechnic's response of May 18, 2016 to the Board's request for additional information regarding the Bachelor of Construction Management program. The Board commended Saskatchewan Polytechnic on its new Academic Model.

**It was moved/seconded (Fisher/Chase) to recommend that the Minister authorize, with conditions, the Bachelor of Construction Management. CARRIED.**

**8. Board Succession 2016**

By correspondence of May 18, 2016 to the Saskatchewan post-secondary sector, Ronald Bond invited nominations for the vacancy to be created by the departure of Bill McLaughlin from the Board in fall 2016, when his second term on the Board expires.

Robin Fisher and Fay Myers served as the Nominations Subcommittee that reviewed nominees' qualifications relative to the *SHEQAB Competency and Composition Matrix*. The Board considered the Subcommittee's findings and expressed its appreciation to all nominees.

**It was moved/seconded (McLaughlin/Fisher) to recommend a candidate to the Minister. CARRIED.**

The names of other candidates will be provided to the Minister upon request.

**9. Standards for 3-Year Degrees**

A post-secondary institution has asked about the possibility of offering 3-year degrees that will ladder into professional programs. The Board discussed the potential merits and drawbacks of 3-year degrees and whether or not standards should be developed. The Secretariat will research current practice and present its findings at a future meeting.

**10. Extension of Authorizations**

The authorization periods of two authorized degrees, Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing and Briercrest's BA in Humanities, will expire on June 30, 2018, requiring both institutions to apply for re-authorization by no later than April 30, 2017 to allow sufficient time to complete the re-authorization process before the authorizations expire.

It was agreed to recommend that the Minister extend the authorizations by two years to enable the Board to conduct a comprehensive, summative review of each program in its fifth year of delivery to

inform re-authorization. For similar reasons, a two-year extension of the period of authorization of Briercrest's BA in English/English (Honours) will also be recommended.

**It was moved/seconded (Fisher/McLaughlin) to recommend that the Minister extend each period of authorization by two years. CARRIED.**

## **11. Ministry Updates**

### **a) Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Application for Authorization - Bachelor of Management**

The application remains under review by the Ministry.

### **b) 2017 Review of the Act and Regulations**

The Ministry is developing a plan to review the Act and Regulations in 2017-18. It is likely the SHEQAB will be asked to participate in the review process.

### **c) Status of "university" criteria**

SHEQAB's recommendation of July 2015 is moving forward within the Ministry, with Cabinet consideration expected by the end of the summer 2016.

An editorial oversight within the Board's July 2015 report was noted. Ronald Bond will provide the Minister with a corrected version.

## **12. SHEQAB Retreat & Winter Meeting**

The planning subcommittee (Thomas Chase and Asit Sarkar) is continuing to develop a plan for the retreat to be held in mid-February 2017 in conjunction with the Board's winter meeting. Potential attendees and topics for discussion are under consideration and will be presented to the Board for its consideration at its October meeting. The Secretariat will look into the possibility of financial support from the Ministry to cover the costs of bringing in a speaker.

## **13. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on October 20, 2016 in Regina at the University of Regina.

## **Adjournment**