



Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

Minutes of the Sixteenth Meeting held January 18, 2018

Saskatchewan Polytechnic – Administrative Offices

Saskatoon, SK

Members:	Ronald Bond (Chair), Karen Barnes (Vice-Chair), Marie Battiste, Thomas Chase, Robin Fisher, Fay Myers, Asit Sarkar, Ryan Walker
Guests at the Invitation of the Chair:	Honourable Herb Cox, Minister of Advanced Education; Mark McLoughlin, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education; Morgan Bradshaw, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Advanced Education (for item 8) Dr. Anne Neufeld, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, Saskatchewan Polytechnic (for item 9)
Secretariat:	Patti Bateman, Darcy Cherney

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Ronald Bond welcomed everyone, noting the full agenda due to the deferral of the fall 2017 meeting. He acknowledged today's meeting was being held on Treaty 6 land, traditional territory of the Cree and homeland of the Métis nation, and extended appreciation to Saskatchewan Polytechnic for its hospitality.

Darcy Cherney was introduced as the Acting Director of the SHEQAB Secretariat, filling the position vacated by Philip Cameron, who has moved to another area of the Ministry of Advanced Education. It was also noted that Tammy Jones is on a temporary assignment within another branch of the Ministry and will likely be returning to the Secretariat in early spring 2018.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Minutes of the June 14, 2017 Meeting

It was moved and seconded (Myers/Sarkar) to approve the Minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting as presented. CARRIED.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of the June 14, 2017 Meeting

a) Standards for 3-Year Degrees

The subcommittee (Barnes/Battiste) that was to consider how Indigenous knowledge could be incorporated within the 'Dimensions of Knowledge' section of *The Bachelor's Degree Level Standard* was unable to meet subsequent to the last meeting; accordingly, progress has been delayed. This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

b) Re-Authorization Reviews

(i) Saskatchewan Polytechnic – Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing (BPN)

Saskatchewan Polytechnic is considering a direct-entry option for the BPN and has asked whether a separate application for authorization is required, or whether the direct entry option could be considered as part of the re-authorization process for the existing degree completion program. Discussion ensued regarding the extent to which learning outcomes may change for the direct entry option and whether the Registered Psychiatric Nursing Association of Saskatchewan (RPNAS) has determined its position regarding a change in the entry-to-practice credential from diploma to degree.

The Board suggested that Saskatchewan Polytechnic consider submitting the direct entry option as part of its application for re-authorization of the BPN degree completion program in April 2019. By then, the comprehensive review of the degree completion program will be complete, the findings of which could impact the direct entry program. There was general agreement that a 'lighter touch' quality assurance review process (e.g., a desk review) should be considered for the direct entry option if there is no substantive difference in learning outcomes between the direct entry and degree completion pathways.

It was moved and seconded (Fisher/Sarkar) to consider the direct entry option as a new program (rather than a new degree), with the nature of the quality assurance review process to be based on the nature and scale of differences between it and the degree completion program. The onus will be on Saskatchewan Polytechnic to articulate the differences and to provide more information regarding RPNAS' position on the entry-to-practice credential. CARRIED.

(ii) Briercrest College and Seminary – Bachelor of Arts in Humanities

Briercrest has requested that the reporting deadline for the reauthorization review of the Bachelor of Arts in Humanities be extended from August 2018 to October 31, 2018.

It was moved and seconded (Battiste, Myers) to grant the extension. CARRIED.

c) Extensions of Authorizations

Further to the Board's July 26, 2016 recommendation to the Minister, the periods of authorization of the following three degrees were extended by the Minister on October 3, 2017:

- Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing, Saskatchewan Polytechnic – extended from June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2020;
- Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Briercrest – extended from June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2020; and,
- Bachelor of Arts in English/English (Honours), Briercrest – extended from June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2022.

d) Board Appointments

There have been further delays in the appointment of new members to replace Karen Barnes, Marie Battiste, and Robin Fisher. The appointment process is ongoing and outcomes will be communicated once the Government has reached a decision. The processes by which a Chair and Vice-Chair are appointed is unclear and the Board may wish to review the *SHEQAB Appointments Policy* and make a recommendation to the Minister.

e) Biennial Review of Quality Assurance Standards

Pursuant to subsection 11(b) of *The Degree Authorization Regulations*, the quality assurance standards must be reviewed every two years. The last review, which occurred in 2015 and involved consultations with the Saskatchewan post-secondary sector, resulted in the SHEQAB recommending to former Minister Eyre, in 2016, changes to Organizational Standards 3.2 and 7.1. Minister Eyre did not reach a decision on this item and with two subsequent changes in Ministers, the recommendation has not yet been addressed.

Similar to the 2015 review, the Chair will send a letter to the Saskatchewan post-secondary sector seeking input on the standards.

f) Use of Blackboard

Board members have found Blackboard to be a useful repository for meeting materials and other Quality Assurance related content. The Secretariat will determine if a search function can be implemented and will post additional content as recommended by the Board.

5. Reports from the Chair, Vice-Chair

a) Annual Meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education

Ronald Bond and Karen Barnes reported on their annual meeting with the Minister, which took place on October 19, 2017 with then Minister Kevin Doherty and Deputy Minister of Advanced Education Mark McLoughlin. The meeting was cordial, with discussion on various matters of mutual interest.

b) Meeting with Briercrest Officials

A second meeting on October 19, 2017 involved the SHEQAB Chair and Vice-Chair, Minister, Deputy Minister, and Briercrest's President and other Briercrest officials. Ronald Bond and Karen Barnes commented on the usefulness of the meeting as an opportunity to reach common understanding on several matters.

6. Chair's 2017 Report to the Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Sector

The Board reviewed a draft of the Chair's report on 2017 activities. The report will be distributed to the sector in the coming weeks.

7. Review of Annual Monitoring Reports for Authorized Degrees

a) Saskatchewan Polytechnic – Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing

The Board reviewed Saskatchewan Polytechnic's monitoring report for 2016-17, the fourth year of delivery of the Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing. The Board was satisfied that the institution is continuing to meet the terms and conditions of authorization and commended Saskatchewan Polytechnic on the comprehensiveness of its report. The Chair will convey the Board's findings to the Minister and will follow up with Saskatchewan Polytechnic on a few questions that arose during discussion.

b) Briercrest College and Seminary – Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Bachelor of Arts in English/English (Honours)

The Board reviewed Briercrest's monitoring reports for 2016-17, the fourth year of delivery of the Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and the second year of delivery of the Bachelor of Arts in English/English (Honours). The Board was satisfied that Briercrest is continuing to meet the terms and conditions of the authorizations and commended Briercrest on its results in the 2017 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which indicate a high level of student satisfaction with Briercrest. The Chair will convey the Board's findings to the Minister and will follow up with Briercrest on a few matters requiring clarification.

The Board declined Briercrest's request to change the annual reporting deadline from August 31st to October 1st.

8. Greetings from the Minister of Advanced Education

The Board was pleased to welcome for lunch Minister Cox, who was joined by Deputy Minister Mark McLoughlin and Chief of Staff Morgan Bradshaw. The Minister brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and thanked Board members for their work. A wide-ranging discussion followed, touching on current issues in post-secondary education and the forthcoming review of Saskatchewan's degree authorization regulatory framework.

Minister Cox presented Certificates of Appreciation to departing Board members Karen Barnes, Marie Battiste, and Robin Fisher, extending the Government's appreciation for their service since the Board's inception in 2012.

9. Greetings from Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Dr. Anne Neufeld brought greetings on behalf of Dr. Larry Rosia, President, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic's senior leadership team, faculty and staff. She spoke about Saskatchewan Polytechnic's new Academic Model and the formation of the Academic Council, expected to be operational in September 2018, concurrently with the launch of the Bachelor of Construction Management.

10. Applications Under Review

Briercrest – Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Psychology (Honours)

The Board reviewed Briercrest's organizational updates of October 30, 2017, November 23, 2017, and December 1, 2017 and will inform Briercrest of matters that require additional clarification or follow up.

On November 28 and 29, 2017, an expert panel visited Briercrest's campus to conduct a program review of the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Psychology (Honours). The members of the panel were Dr. Lorraine Radtke (Panel Chair), Department of Psychology, University of Calgary; Dr. Laurie Carlson Berg, Directrice, Programme du Bac, Faculté d'éducation, Université de Regina; and Dr. Evelyn Field, Chair, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Mount Royal University. The panel assessed the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Psychology (Honours) relative to the SHEQAB's *Bachelor's Degree Level Standard* and the *Program Review Standards and Criteria*.

The Board was pleased to have Dr. Radtke join the meeting by teleconference to answer questions and elaborate on the panel's findings. Following deliberations, the Board recommended the Minister authorize, with conditions, the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. The Board did not recommend authorization of the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (Honours).

11. Briercrest Bachelor of Arts History/History (Honours) – Referral from Minister

In a letter of December 14, 2017, Minister Cox asked the SHEQAB whether there may be merit in considering Campus Alberta Quality Council's guidelines for determining the number of faculty required for baccalaureate programs. Briercrest has asked the Minister to amend the terms and conditions of authorization of the Bachelor of Arts History/History (Honours); the Board's advice will inform the Minister's response to Briercrest.

The Secretariat will conduct an inter-jurisdictional scan to determine faculty resourcing requirements in all Canadian jurisdictions, including Alberta. The Board will consider the findings at its next meeting and will then respond to the Minister.

12. Ministry Updates

Darcy Cherney updated the Board on the following items:

a) New Degree Applications

The Ministry anticipates receiving at least two degree authorization applications from Saskatchewan Polytechnic by the submission deadline of April 30, 2018, one for a Bachelor of Applied Management and one for a Bachelor of Addictions Counselling. A separate application for the Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing Direct Entry option is also under consideration by Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

b) Expectations for Faculty Research/Scholarship Activity

Saskatchewan Polytechnic has asked for clarification regarding requirements for faculty research/scholarship in degree programs with an applied focus. SHEQAB's Program Standard #5 requires faculty members to have "an appropriate level of scholarly output and/or research or creative activity for the program" but does not offer additional guidance about the type of activities that would address this expectation. The Secretariat will look into the guidelines that the Campus Alberta Quality Council has developed regarding scholarship, research and creative activity, with a view to possibly including similar guidelines in Standard #5.

c) Review of Saskatchewan's Degree Authorization Regulatory Framework

In 2018-19, the Ministry will review the degree authorization regulatory framework to assess how *The Degree Authorization Act* and Regulations are meeting the needs of government, the SHEQAB, and stakeholders. The review, to be led by a cross-Ministry team, will include consideration of whether the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina should remain exempt from the Act. The SHEQAB will be consulted during the review process.

13. Secretariat Updates

a) Post-Secondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB) Inter-Jurisdictional Scan

The Secretariat of Ontario's PEQAB has conducted an inter-jurisdictional scan of how Canadian quality assurance Boards operate. The scan was provided to the Board for information.

b) SHEQAB Membership in the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)

The Secretariat will continue to explore membership in INQAAHE, an organization with over 200 members worldwide that focuses on the theory and practice of quality assurance in higher education. Other Canadian quality assurance agencies that are members of INQAAHE include the Campus Alberta Quality Council, the Commission d'Évaluation de l'Enseignement Collégial (Quebec), the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, the Ontario Colleges Quality Assurance Service, and the PEQAB.

14. Farewell to Board Members

Thanks and best wishes were extended to departing members Karen Barnes, Marie Battiste, and Robin Fisher, whose second and final terms have expired. Ron Bond spoke to their impressive contributions as founding members of the Board.

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will take place in Regina, Saskatchewan in spring 2018. A specific date has yet to be determined.

Adjournment