



Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

Minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting held November 20, 2018
University of Saskatchewan – Administration Building
Saskatoon, SK

Members:	Ronald Bond (Chair), Ryan Walker (Vice-Chair), Thomas Chase, Tavia Laliberte, Kathleen McNutt, Fay Myers, Asit Sarkar, Keith Walker
Guests at the Invitation of the Chair:	Mark McLoughlin, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education (for lunch and item 7) Jesse Bailey, Alicia Hugel, Senior Analysts, Strategic, Intergovernmental and Legislative Priorities Unit, Ministry of Advanced Education (for item 8)
Secretariat:	Michèle BirnsHahn, Patti Bateman, Tammy Jones, Oleksandra Sakhno

Chair's Opening Remarks

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

The Board was briefed on the recently approved Order in Council appointing Kathy McNutt as Chair and re-appointing Fay Myers, Tom Chase and Asit Sarkar for their second and final terms. See item 7.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Oleksandra Sakhno was introduced as a new hire to the Ministry as Operational Support Analyst. Part of her responsibilities will include working with the Secretariat to support the SHEQAB.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 14, 2018 Meeting

It was moved and seconded (Sarkar/McNutt) to approve the Minutes of the June 14, 2018 meeting as presented. CARRIED.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of the June 14, 2018 Meeting

- a) Annual Meeting between the SHEQAB Chair/Vice-Chair and the Minister of Advanced Education (Minister)

Due to the Legislative Assembly being in session, the Minister has postponed the annual meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair, which is typically held in the fall. The meeting will be scheduled in early 2019.

- b) Criteria for 3-Year Degrees

The Minister has approved SHEQAB's proposed revisions to the Bachelor's Degree Level Standard to include criteria for 3-year degrees. The revised standard has been published on the SHEQAB website.

- c) Public Review of Quality Assurance Standards

- i. Input from 2018 Review

Suggestions made by Saskatchewan Polytechnic will be addressed by the Ministry through future conversations with the institution and/or as part of the review of *The Degree Authorization Act* (Act) and *The Degree Authorization Regulations* (Regulations) that is currently underway.

- ii. Recommended Changes to Organizational Standards 3.2 and 7.1 – 2016 Review

The Minister has not reached a decision on this item.

- iii. Proposed Amendment to Panel Reviewer Questionnaire

SHEQAB's policy on "Public Review of Quality Assurance Standards" states that the SHEQAB will seek input on the standards from external review teams. To ensure feedback from panelists is captured, the Secretariat proposed that two questions be added to the panel reviewer questionnaire. **It was moved and seconded (Chase/Walker) to approve the amendments to the questionnaire as presented. CARRIED.**

- d) Standards/criteria for honours-level programs

The Secretariat presented inter-jurisdictional research related to standards for honours-level programs. The Board agreed that the Saskatchewan post-secondary sector would benefit from clearly defined honours-level degree requirements. The Secretariat was asked to consult the post-secondary sector and present recommendations at the next meeting.

e) Ontario Indigenous Institutes Quality Assurance Council

Ontario's new *Indigenous Institutes Act* (enacted in 2017) recognizes Indigenous institutions as an integral part of Ontario's post-secondary system. It creates an Indigenous-controlled and governed entity, the Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council, which has established the Indigenous Institutes Quality Assessment Board (IIQAB). Members of the Secretariat of the IIQAB recently joined the pan-Canadian group of Quality Assurance Secretariats that meets monthly by teleconference to discuss matters of common interest.

f) Indigenization and Degree Standards – Subcommittee Report

Kathy McNutt and Ryan Walker led a discussion about how Indigenous knowledge might be addressed within the quality assurance standards. They will take into consideration the Board's input and present recommendations at the next SHEQAB meeting.

g) SHEQAB Competency & Composition Matrix – Subcommittee Report

Keith Walker, Tavia Laliberte, and Asit Sarkar recommended changes to the SHEQAB Competency and Composition Matrix to address various matters raised by the Minister at the June 14, 2018 meeting. The Board concurred with the recommended changes. **It was moved and seconded (Myers/Chase) to seek the Minister's approval of the recommended changes. CARRIED.**

h) Briercrest BA in History – faculty requirement

The Minister has amended the terms and conditions for the BA in History, enabling the institution to launch the program with its current faculty complement.

5. Monitoring of Authorized Degrees

The Board reviewed the following monitoring reports:

- a) Briercrest BA in English/English (Honours) – Year 3 (2017-18)
- b) Briercrest BA in Humanities – Year 5 (2017-18) Re-authorization Review
- c) Saskatchewan Polytechnic Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing – Year 5 (2017-18) Re-authorization Review

The Board was satisfied that Briercrest and Saskatchewan Polytechnic are continuing to meet the terms and conditions of authorization and commended both institutions for their good work.

The periods of authorization of the BA in Humanities and Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing will expire on June 30, 2020. The Board was supportive of the ongoing authorization of both degrees.

It was moved and seconded (Walker/McNutt) to convey the Board's findings to the Minister and the institutions. CARRIED.

6. Institutional Updates

a) Saskatchewan Polytechnic Bachelor of Construction Management

The degree has launched for the 2018-19 academic year and Saskatchewan Polytechnic's new Academic Council is operational.

b) Briercrest degree plan and update on the BA in Psychology

The Board reviewed Briercrest's updated degree plan and its progress in meeting the terms and conditions attached to the authorization of the BA in Psychology.

7. Deputy Minister's Greetings and Farewell to Ron Bond

Mark McLoughlin brought greetings on behalf of Minister Beaudry-Mellor and thanked Board members for their service.

This meeting was Ronald Bond's last meeting due to the expiry of his second and final term. Mark presented Ron with a letter from the Minister and Certificate of Appreciation from the Government of Saskatchewan. He thanked Ron not only for his exceptional service on the Board since its inception in 2012 but also for his significant contributions to the early development of Saskatchewan's degree authorization regulatory framework.

Mark congratulated Kathy McNutt on her appointment as Chair and Tom Chase, Asit Sarkar, and Fay Myers on their appointments for a second term.

8. Minister's Referral - Saskatchewan Polytechnic Bachelor of Applied Management

The Minister has referred Saskatchewan Polytechnic's proposed Bachelor of Applied Management to the Board for a quality assurance review. The Board agreed to proceed with a program review and identified candidates to serve on the external program review panel. As required by the Regulations, the candidates' names will be submitted to the Minister for approval.

9. Ministry Review of the Degree Authorization Regulatory Framework

As part of a preliminary, informal stakeholder engagement process, Jesse Bailey and Alicia Hugel provided an overview of potential amendments to the Act and Regulations. The Board provided feedback for consideration.

10. Ministry Updates

a) University of Cannabis Medicine

A business entity that was previously using the name 'University of Cannabis Medicine' is no longer doing so and references to 'University of Cannabis Medicine' have been removed from social media and various other websites.

b) Leadership Forum 2018

The Ministry held a Leadership Forum on October 21-22, 2018, bringing together leaders from Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector to discuss issues related to student mobility, learner pathways, and student mental health and well-being.

11. Secretariat Updates

a) Canada's ratification of the Lisbon Recognition Convention

In August 2018, Canada formally became a party, among 54 other signatory countries, to the Lisbon Recognition Convention, the purpose of which is to facilitate the mobility of individuals through the recognition of academic credentials issued both in and outside Canada. Quality assurance agencies across Canada are now considering potential implications and the Board will monitor further developments.

b) Transition of SHEQAB website to sask.ca

The SHEQAB website will be migrated to the Government of Saskatchewan website (Saskatchewan.ca) due to technology limitations with the current information technology platform.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will take place in Regina, SK, with the date to be determined.

Adjournment