

November 7, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

It has been one year since *The Degree Authorization Act* was proclaimed in the Saskatchewan legislature. Shortly thereafter, the Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB) was established to oversee a quality assurance process that ensures new degree programs in the province meet high quality standards. The SHEQAB comprises eight members: Dr. Karen Barnes, Dr. Marie Battiste, Dr. Ronald Bond (Vice-Chair), Dr. Robin Fisher, Ms. Irene Lewis, Dr. Vi Maeers, Mr. Bill McLaughlin, and me, serving as Chair. For more information about the SHEQAB, including member bios, please visit www.quality-assurance-sk.ca/board.

Since its establishment, the SHEQAB has met four times. Our first meeting, in January 2013, was an orientation session during which we discussed internal and external quality assurance approaches; received an overview of the Saskatchewan post-secondary system and the highlights of *The Degree Authorizations Act* and *The Degree Authorization Regulations*; reviewed Saskatchewan's new quality assurance standards and processes; and discussed the SHEQAB's structure and operations as we prepared to begin our work with then-current and upcoming applications for authorization. You will find more information about the Board's operations, the legislation and regulations, and the quality assurance standards and processes at www.quality-assurance-sk.ca/what-we-do.

Our first business meeting took place on March 26, 2013, in Regina. The Board was pleased to receive a welcome from Dr. Thomas Chase, Provost of the University of Regina, and a presentation from Deputy Minister of Advanced Education, Dr. Louise Greenberg.

At our second business meeting in Saskatoon on May 28, 2013, we were welcomed by Dr. Patti McDougall, Vice-Provost at the University of Saskatchewan. We were also pleased to have then-Minister of Advanced Education Don Morgan join us over the lunch break, and to hear his thoughts on the importance of high quality post-secondary education to Saskatchewan's continuing growth and prosperity.

The third SHEQAB business meeting recently took place in Regina on October 23. Once again, we were grateful for the participation of Deputy Minister Greenberg, who gave an update on the current state of Saskatchewan's post-secondary education system. The ongoing dialogue with our Minister and Deputy Minister is extremely valuable to the Board, as it helps us to remain aware of the context in which we perform our duties.

... 2

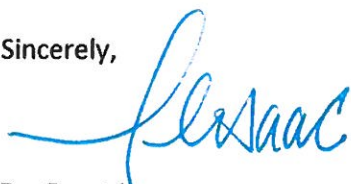
Over the course of these meetings, and with the support of the Ministry and the SHEQAB Secretariat, we have accomplished a great deal. Following is a list of some of the highlights:

- We reviewed the commendable work of the Interim Quality Assurance Board and its expert panels on the case study applications from Briercrest College and Seminary (Briercrest) and SIAST following referral of these institutions' respective applications for authorization of a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities degree and a Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing degree.
- Based on this review, we recommended authorization of a BA in Humanities at Briercrest and a Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing at SIAST to the Minister. Both degrees were authorized by the Minister in July.
- We determined that the SHEQAB should be considered a 'government institution' for the purposes of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- We adopted a Code of Conduct, Operating Principles, and a decision-making model for the Board.
- We recommended quality assurance standards and criteria for baccalaureate degrees to the Minister, and these were subsequently approved.
- We are in the process of developing quality assurance standards and criteria for graduate-level degrees.
- We have begun development of a monitoring framework for all authorized degrees.
- We have recently received referrals from Advanced Education Minister Norris of two more baccalaureate degrees proposed by Briercrest, and have begun the process of organizing quality assurance reviews for these applications.

For those who would like more detail regarding the activities of the Board, please note that minutes of SHEQAB meetings are posted on the website at www.quality-assurance-sk.ca/meeting-minutes following their approval by the Board.

There is still a great deal of work to be done. In addition to responding to future referrals of applications for authorization, the SHEQAB will, in the coming months, work on the development of standards and criteria for associate degrees, and begin the task of monitoring authorized degrees. The Board is open to receiving your input, and welcomes any ideas or questions you may have. I invite you to contact me through the SHEQAB Secretariat by emailing info@quality-assurance-sk.ca.

Sincerely,



Dr. Grant Isaac
Chair, SHEQAB

cc: Honourable Rob Norris, Minister of Advanced Education
Louise Greenberg, Ph.D., Deputy Minister of Advanced Education
Dr. Reg Urbanowski, EdD, Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education

Distribution List

Mr. Ricardo Arisnabarretta, President, University of Regina Graduate Students Association
Ms. Audrey Armstrong, President, First Nations University of Canada, Saskatoon Campus, Students' Association
Mr. Brad Bellegarde, President, First Nations University of Canada, Regina Campus, Students' Association
Mr. Riel Bellegarde, President, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
Mr. Arnold Boldt, A/Provost and Vice-President, Academic, SIAST
Dr. James Brown, Chief Executive, Secretariat, Postsecondary Education Quality Assurance Board of Ontario
Dr. Ilene Busch-Vishniac, President, University of Saskatchewan
Mr. Lorne Calvert, Principal, St. Andrew's College
Mr. Blair Chapman, President, Saskatchewan Association of Career Colleges
Mr. Glenn Charlesworth, President and CEO, Lakeland College
Dr. Thomas Chase, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, University of Regina
Ms. Beverly Crossman, Executive Director, Association of Saskatchewan Regional Colleges
Dr. Terrence Downey, President, St. Thomas More College
Ms. Mireille Duguay, CEO, Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
Dr. Brett Fairbairn, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, University of Saskatchewan
Mr. Wes Fehr, President, Nipawin Bible College
Mr. Mitchell Ferreira, President, Briercrest College Student Government
Mr. Max Fineday, President, University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
Rev. Brian Fuller, President, Eston College
Ms. Caitlin Grant, President, SIAST Kelsey and Woodland Campuses Students' Association
Mr. Kelvin (Toby) Greschner, President and CEO, Northlands College
Mr. Robert Harasymchuk, President, St. Peter's College
Dr. Bryan Hillis, President, Luther College
M. Francis Kasongo, Directeur général, Collège Mathieu
Dr. David Keast, President and CEO, Great Plains College
Dr. Christian Lacroix, Chair, Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
Ms. Octavia Lalibertie, President and CEO, North West Regional College
Dr. Jeromey Martini, President, Horizon College and Seminary
Mr. Geordy McCaffrey, Executive Director, Gabriel Dumont Institute
Mr. Dion McGrath, President and CEO, Southeast Regional College
Dr. John Meehan, President, Campion College
Mr. Trevor Merasty, President, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies - Saskatoon Student Leadership Council
Dr. Herman Michell, Executive Director, NORTEP/NORPAC
Ms. Maureen Morton, Chair, Postsecondary Education Quality Assurance Board of Ontario
Ms. Valerie Mushinski, CEO, Cumberland Regional College
Dr. Fay Myers, President, Parkland Regional College
Rt. Rev. James Njegovan, President, College of Emmanuel and St. Chad
Rev. Kevin A. Ogilvie, President, Lutheran Theological Seminary
Mr. Ehimai Ohiozebau, President, University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association
Ms. Marilyn Patton, Director, Secretariat, Campus Alberta Quality Council
Dr. Michael Pawelke, President, Briercrest Family of Schools
Mr. Jeff Ritter, CEO, Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission
Mr. Jason Roberts, President, First Nations University of Canada, Northern Campus Students' Association
Ms. Dorothy Rogers, Director, Secretariat, Degree Quality Assessment Board of British Columbia

Dr. Larry Rosia, President and CEO, SIAST
Dr. Nicholas Rubidge, Chair, Degree Quality Assessment Board of British Columbia
Mr. Phil Ruten, President, Millar College of the Bible
Mr. Nathan Sgrazzutti, President, University of Regina Students' Union
Mr. Philip Siggelkow, Administrator, International Bible College
Mme. Francoise Sigur-Cloutier, Presidente, Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise (ACF)
Mr. Devon Stelwagen, President, SIAST Wascana Campus Students' Association
Dr. Vianne Timmons, President, University of Regina
Mr. Juliano Tupone, A/President, First Nations University of Canada
Mr. Brett Vandale, Director, Dumont Technical Institute
Mr. Howie Wall, President, Bethany College
Ms. Emily Weekes, President, SIAST Palliser Campus Students' Association
Rev. Terry Wiebe, Principal, College of Emmanuel and St. Chad
Dr. Ivan Yackel, CEO, Carlton Trail Regional College
Dr. Olive Yonge, Chair, Campus Alberta Quality Council