



March 6, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to report on the activities of the Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB) in 2016, the Board's fourth year of operation.

During 2016, eight members served on the SHEQAB: Dr. Karen Barnes (Vice-Chair), Dr. Marie Battiste, Dr. Thomas Chase, Dr. Robin Fisher, Mr. Bill McLaughlin, Dr. Fay Myers, Dr. Asit Sarkar, and myself. As usual, we met three times, in the spring, fall and winter, and welcomed the opportunity to visit the campuses of various Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions and other locations in the province.

In 2016, Board meetings were held as follows:

- On February 9, 2016, at the T. C. Douglas Building in Regina. Dr. Louise Greenberg, Ph.D., Deputy Minister of Advanced Education brought greetings and updated the Board on various Ministry initiatives.
- On June 15, 2016, at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Peter Stoicheff, President of the University of Saskatchewan, greeted the Board and spoke about the University's indigenization activities and goals for promoting the success of Aboriginal students. Mr. Kehan Fu, President of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, also brought greetings and addressed matters related to internationalization on campus.
- On October 20, 2016, at the University of Regina. Dr. Vianne Timmons, President of the University of Regina, welcomed the Board and spoke about "*peyak aski kikawinaw – Together We Are Stronger*", the University's five-year strategic plan.

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A primary responsibility of the SHEQAB is to review applications for authorization that are referred to the Board by the Minister of Advanced Education. In 2016, the Board conducted an organizational review of Briercrest College and Seminary, as part of the Board's consideration of Briercrest's application for authorization of a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Psychology (Honours). The Board will continue its consideration of this application in 2017. The Board also completed its review of an application made by Saskatchewan Polytechnic for a Bachelor of Construction Management. Following a positive recommendation from the Board, the Minister authorized the degree effective July 1, 2017.

The SHEQAB is also responsible for monitoring authorized degree programs. In fall 2016, the Board reviewed annual monitoring reports submitted by Saskatchewan Polytechnic for the third year of delivery of its Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing and by Briercrest College and Seminary for the third year of delivery of its Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and the first year of delivery of its Bachelor of Arts in English/English(Honours). The reports revealed good progress in the implementation of the degrees.

In October, Vice-Chair Karen Barnes and I had the pleasure of meeting with the Honourable Bronwyn Eyre, who was appointed Minister of Advanced Education in August 2016, succeeding the Honourable Scott Moe. We look forward to engaging with Minister Eyre on various matters in the year ahead, including the Board's recommendation regarding the criteria to be used by Government when considering requests from institutions for approval to use the terms "university" and "varsity", and how the Board might be engaged during a review of *The Degree Authorization Act* and *The Degree Authorization Regulations* expected to occur in 2017.

Also in October, I had the pleasure of serving as a panelist at the Leadership Forum hosted by the Ministry of Advanced Education. The topic of navigating the roles, relationships and tensions between boards and senior management served as a springboard for thought-provoking questions and discussion.

The SHEQAB Secretariat supports the Board in all aspects of its work by providing policy and procedural advice, organizing Board meetings, drafting correspondence, briefings and reports, orienting new Board members, maintaining the SHEQAB website, and coordinating the activities of external panels commissioned by the Board to conduct organizational and program reviews. The Secretariat also responds to inquiries related to quality assurance that may come from the public, post-secondary institutions, and other governments and organizations. Recently, the Secretariat was pleased to share information about the development of Saskatchewan's degree authorization legislation and quality assurance framework with the Government of Yukon and with Yukon College, which is on the path to becoming a degree-granting institution. The Board and the post-secondary institutions in the province are very well served by the SHEQAB's secretariat.

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The Secretariat's counterparts in other jurisdictions include the Degree Quality Assessment Board in British Columbia, Campus Alberta Quality Council, the Ontario Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board, the Council of Ontario Universities' Quality Council, the Ontario College Quality Assurance Service, and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. A monthly inter-agency teleconference serves as a valuable forum for discussion and sharing of best practices in quality assurance.

Please feel free to forward this letter to others who may be interested in the work of the Board. I also invite you to visit the SHEQAB website (www.quality-assurance-sk.ca) where you will find the minutes of Board meetings, the quality assurance standards used by the Board when conducting organizational and program reviews, Board members' biographies, and other information related to Saskatchewan's degree authorization and quality assurance review processes.

If you have any inquiries about, or input into, SHEQAB activities, you may contact me through the SHEQAB Secretariat by e-mailing info@quality-assurance-sk.ca.

My colleagues and I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the quality assurance of post-secondary degree programs in Saskatchewan and we look forward to a productive 2017.

With warm regards,



Dr. Ronald Bond
Chair, SHEQAB

cc: Honourable Bronwyn Eyre, Minister of Advanced Education
Louise Greenberg, Ph.D., Deputy Minister of Advanced Education

Distribution List:

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Riel Bellegarde, President, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
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Dwayne Reeve, President, Parkland College
Jean-François Richard, Chair, Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
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Dorothy Rogers, Director, Secretariat, Degree Quality Assessment Board of British Columbia
Shelley Romanyszyn-Cross, Acting CEO, Carlton Trail College

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Phil Ruten, President, Millar College of the Bible
Stacia Selinger, President, Saskatoon and Prince Albert Campus Students' Association, Saskatchewan Polytechnic
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Brett Vandale, Director, Dumont Technical Institute
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Dr. Tom Weegar, President and CEO, Cumberland College
Dr. Lynn Wells, Vice-President, Academic, First Nations University of Canada
David Wuttunee, President, Regina Student Leadership Council, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies