

January 26, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to report on the activities of the Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB) in 2014, the Board's second year of operation. 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.

In 2014, the Board met on three occasions and was pleased to have the opportunity to conduct its meetings on the campuses of Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions.

- On February 13, 2014, we met in Saskatoon at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The Board was pleased to receive a gracious welcome from President, Dr. Larry Rosia.
- On June 4, 2014, our meeting took place at Briercrest College and Seminary in Caronport. Dr. Michael Pawelke, President, warmly welcomed the Board and provided us a tour of the campus.
- On September 25, 2014, our meeting was held in Regina at the First Nations University of Canada, where we were greeted by the institution's new President, Dr. Mark Dockstater. We were also pleased to have the Minister of Advanced Education, Honourable Kevin Doherty, join us for lunch, greetings and the exchange of information about SHEQAB activities.

Over the course of the Board meetings and other engagements, we accomplished a number of tasks, including the following highlights:

- The Board expanded the quality assurance standards to include graduate level standards.

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- The Board approved an *Annual Monitoring Framework for Authorized Degree Programs*, which outlines the reporting requirements for institutions offering authorized degrees.
- The Board reviewed monitoring reports provided by Saskatchewan Polytechnic for the first year of program delivery of the Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing, and by Briercrest for the first year of program delivery of the Bachelor of Arts in Humanities. The Board was pleased with the monitoring reports and relayed a positive assessment of the reports to the Minister.
- Quality assurance reviews were recommended and undertaken for Briercrest's Bachelor of Arts in English/English (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts in History/History (Honours) proposed degree programs. In September 2014, Minister Doherty authorized both programs with conditions.
- The Board updated its *Competency and Composition Matrix* and policy to address Board composition, appointments and re-appointments. The policy and matrix promotes diversity and fairness when nominating and appointing Board members. The Board will use the policy and matrix in the 2015 *Call for Nominations* for two upcoming vacant positions.
- The Board's Vice Chair, Ronald Bond, and I met with Minister Doherty in September 2014, to discuss the work of the Board as well as Board renewal and succession planning. We look forward to meeting with the Minister annually to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- In September 2014, the Lieutenant Governor in Council approved and referred two *Applications for Authorization* to the Board for quality assurance reviews, including Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Bachelor of Science in Construction Management and Briercrest's Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.
- At the Minister's request, the Board established a working group in December 2014, to develop criteria to be used by the Ministry to assess requests for institutions seeking permission to use the terms "university" and "varsity" pursuant to section 6 of *The Degree Authorization Act*. The Board will provide its recommendation(s) to the Minister in March 2015.

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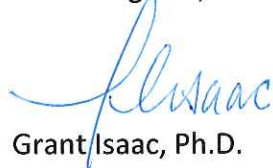
A more detailed record of Board activities can be found in the minutes of the SHEQAB meetings which are posted on the SHEQAB website at [www.quality-assurance-sk.ca/meeting-minutes](http://www.quality-assurance-sk.ca/meeting-minutes).

As mentioned, the SHEQAB will soon be seeking Board nominees for two positions which are expected to become vacant in October 2015. Board appointments run for a period of three years and may be renewed for a second term. I will contact you in the near future for recommendations of prospective candidates. In the meantime, you may wish to review the *Board Competency and Composition Matrix* on the website to learn about the mandatory and desired attributes of Board members ([www.quality-assurance-sk.ca/board-competency-matrix](http://www.quality-assurance-sk.ca/board-competency-matrix)).

If you have any other inquiries, please contact me through the SHEQAB Secretariat by emailing [info@quality-assurance-sk.ca](mailto:info@quality-assurance-sk.ca). The Board welcomes any feedback and/or suggestions you may have about SHEQAB activities and business.

It has been a pleasure contributing to the quality assurance of post-secondary degree programs in Saskatchewan and we look forward to continuing this work in 2015.

Warm regards,



Grant Isaac, Ph.D.  
Chair, SHEQAB

cc: Honourable Kevin Doherty, Minister of Advanced Education  
Louise Greenberg, Ph.D., Deputy Minister of Advanced Education



## **Distribution List:**

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