



## Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

### Minutes of the Twentieth Meeting held November 20, 2019 Teleconference Call

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Members: Kathleen McNutt (Chair), Ryan Walker (Vice-Chair), Thomas Chase, Tavia Laliberte, Fay Myers, Asit Sarkar, Keith Walker

Regrets: Jay Notay

Secretariat: Michèle BirnsHahn, Patti Bateman, Tammy Jones, Oleksandra Sakhno

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#### 1. Opening Welcome & Introductions

Chair, Kathy McNutt, welcomed everyone to the teleconference. She acknowledged today's meeting was being held on Treaty 4 (Regina) and Treaty 6 (Saskatoon) land, traditional territory of the Cree and homeland of the Métis nation.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

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

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 20, 2018 Meeting

It was moved and seconded (Laliberte/Myers) to approve the Minutes of the May 24, 2019 meeting as presented. **CARRIED.**

#### 4. Business Arising - Minutes of the November 20, 2018 Meeting

##### a) New Board Member

On October 30, 2019, Jay Notay was appointed to the SHEQAB for a three-year term. Jay is the President and Chief Executive Officer at North West College.

#### 5. Follow-up - SHEQAB Fall Retreat October 16 and 17, 2019

##### a) Report from Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Ryan Walker presented the subcommittee's draft strategic plan. Board members' input will be incorporated in a final version to be presented for approval at the next meeting.

##### b) Report from Micro-credentials Subcommittee

At the SHEQAB retreat held on October 16 and 17, 2019, the Minister of Advanced Education tasked the SHEQAB with leading the development of a micro-credentials framework that will support, at a high level, the expanded use of micro-credentials in Saskatchewan. A framework will provide the opportunity to identify policies, tools and enablers that will be needed in Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector to support micro-credentialing.

Fay Myers, Chair of the subcommittee, presented a draft work plan. Work to date has involved research on the current state of micro-credentials in Saskatchewan, across Canada and globally. Going forward, the SHEQAB will work collaboratively with the Ministry to implement the work plan.

## **6. Application for Authorization – Cape Breton University**

In Spring 2019, Cape Breton University applied for authorization of its Master of Business Administration in Community Economic Development as well as permission to use the word “University” in Saskatchewan. Following completion of the Ministry’s Phase I system coordination review, Cabinet approved the application and referred it to the SHEQAB for an expedited quality assurance review.

With Secretariat support, a Board member will undertake a desk review pursuant to section 17 of *The Degree Authorization Regulations*. Findings will be presented at the next meeting.

## **7. 2019-20 Annual Monitoring Reports**

### **a) Briercrest College and Seminary**

The Board reviewed monitoring reports submitted by Briercrest for its BA Humanities (Year 6 of delivery), BA English/English Honours (Year 4 of delivery), and BA History/History Honours (Year 1 of delivery), along with the institution’s 2018-19 organizational update report. An organizational matter will be revisited at a future meeting.

The Board will update the Minister on Briercrest’s degree-granting activities.

In response to a request from Briercrest, the Secretariat will review how the status of an authorized degree is listed on the government’s website. There is a need to ensure the public is aware that the start date of the period of authorization may not always align with the date the institution launches the degree program.

### **b) Saskatchewan Polytechnic**

The Board reviewed monitoring reports submitted by Saskatchewan Polytechnic for its Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing (Year 6 of delivery) and Bachelor of Construction Management (Year 1 of delivery), along with the institution’s 2018-19 organizational update report. The Board will update the Minister on Saskatchewan Polytech’s degree-granting activities.

## **8. Ministry Updates**

### **a) Consultations on proposed amendments to *The Degree Authorization Regulations***

The Board reviewed the Ministry’s consultation document on *Proposed Amendments to The Degree Authorization Regulations* and will provide its feedback to the Ministry.

**b) Public Interest Disclosure Act**

Dan Nameth, Director, Program Accounting, spoke to the Board about *The Public Interest Disclosure Act* (PIDA). He advised that he is SHEQAB's designated officer for the purposes of the PIDA Act.

**c) Ministry of Advanced Education Reports**

The Board reviewed the Ministry's *Annual Report for 2018-19* and *Plan for 2019-20*, both of which reference the work of the SHEQAB.

**d) Plan for growth**

The Board reviewed Saskatchewan's newly announced *Growth Plan, The Next Decade of Growth 2020 -2030*, along with a summary of items in the Growth Plan that relate to the work of the SHEQAB and quality assurance.

**9. Secretariat Updates**

**a) Transition of SHEQAB website to Saskatchewan.ca**

The original SHEQAB website ([www.quality-assurance-sk.ca](http://www.quality-assurance-sk.ca).) has been transitioned to [Saskatchewan.ca](http://Saskatchewan.ca). Visitors to the old site will be re-directed to the new site.

**b) Activities in other jurisdictions**

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) is conducting a survey related to quality assurance processes and timelines across Canadian jurisdictions. The Secretariat will update the Board of the findings when they are released by the MPHEC.

**c) Other Secretariat activities**

The Secretariat provided an update on its recent activities including:

- work associated with amending the Regulations; and
- the handling of a website which was advertising a fraudulent university in Saskatchewan.

**Adjournment**