



Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

Minutes of the Twenty-first Meeting held March 16, 2020 Video/Teleconference Call

Members:	Ryan Walker (Vice-Chair), Tavia Laliberte (for items 2,3, 5 & 6), Fay Myers, Jay Notay, Keith Walker
Regrets:	Thomas Chase, Kathleen McNutt (Chair), Asit Sarkar
Guests at the Invitation of the Chair	From the Planning, Strategy and Evaluation Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education (for item 6): Philip Cameron, Director; Jesse Bailey, Trevor Holloway, Senior Analysts
Secretariat:	Patti Bateman, Tammy Jones

1. Opening Welcome & Introductions

Ryan Walker, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting with a welcome to all and an acknowledgement of Treaty 6 (Saskatoon) and Treaty 4(Regina) lands, traditional territories of the Cree, Saulteaux, Assiniboine and Métis. A warm welcome was extended to Jay Notay, President and CEO of North West College, who was appointed to the Board on October 30, 2019.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded (Laliberte, Myers) to approve the Agenda as presented. CARRIED.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 20, 2019 Meeting

It was moved and seconded (Myers, Laliberte) to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2019 meeting as presented. CARRIED.

4. Board Membership

Two positions on the Board will require filling, one due to the pending resignation from the Board of Dr. Thomas Chase, who will assume the position of Interim President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Regina effective April 1, 2020, and one due to the pending departure of Dr. Ryan Walker, whose term on the Board will end in May.

In accordance with the *SHEQAB Appointments Policy*, and has been past practice, the Chair will issue a Call for Nominations to the Saskatchewan post-secondary sector. The request will highlight any particular competencies that may be needed to ensure the Board, as a whole, has the collective capacity to carry out its functions. Fay Myers and Ryan Walker will serve as a subcommittee to assist with the nominations process, using the *SHEQAB Competency and Composition Matrix* to determine competency requirements and vet nominees.

5. SHEQAB Strategic Plan 2019 - 2024

With a few additional edits, the Board's Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 was finalized.

It was moved and seconded (Walker, K., Laliberte) to approve the Strategic Plan. CARRIED.

The Strategic Plan will be included in the Chair's 2019 Annual Update to the Saskatchewan post-secondary Sector.

6. Expedited Review of Cape Breton University's Master of Business Administration in Community Economic Development

The Board reviewed a report prepared by Dr. Sarkar, who conducted the expedited review with support from the Secretariat. The Board commended Dr. Sarkar and the Secretariat for their work.

Cape Breton University will now be invited to respond to the report. At its next meeting in June 2020, the Board will make its recommendation to the Minister of Advanced Education regarding authorization.

7. Micro-credentials

The Board welcomed Philip Cameron, Jesse Bailey, and Trevor Holloway to the meeting and received the Ministry's research report entitled *Understanding Micro-credentials*.

Philip Cameron highlighted key findings and outlined potential next steps for advancing the use of micro-credentials in Saskatchewan that could include consultations with the post-secondary sector and other key stakeholders, pilot projects, and further consideration of technological platforms.

The SHEQAB commended the Ministry on its work and endorsed the report subject to a few revisions. The Chair will forward the report to the Minister of Advanced Education for approval.

8. Secretariat Updates

a) Proposed amendments to *The Degree Authorization Regulations*

Proposed amendments to the Regulations are proceeding through various government approval processes. It is anticipated that the amended Regulations will come into force by early June 2020.

b) Briercrest Degree Plan

Briercrest is working towards submitting, by April 30th, three applications for degree authorization. If approved by Cabinet following the Ministry's Phase I assessment process, the applications will be referred to the SHEQAB in fall 2020 for quality assurance reviews.

c) Website Change

On the 'degree-granting' webpage on Saskatchewan.ca, the table showing the status of degree applications now indicates that the period of authorization of a degree program may not always

coincide with the date of program implementation.

d) Compensation for Board Work Outside of Business Meetings

Board members who take on additional work outside of regularly-scheduled meetings may claim an honorarium for such work, provided the work falls within the functions of the Board as stated in s.15 of the Act and s.10 of the Regulations.

e) Issues related to Compliance with *The Degree Authorization Act* and Regulations

Recent compliance issues that have been brought to the attention of the Secretariat relate to the use of the word “university” in business names and nomenclature for undergraduate theological degrees. The Secretariat will work with the Ministry to address these issues.

f) Quality Assurance Activities in Other Jurisdictions

The Board was informed of various activities happening in other provinces, including red tape reduction measures.

Secretariat Staffing

Michele Birns Hahn (Director) has left the Ministry of Advanced Education to pursue another opportunity in government, with Tammy Jones now Acting Director. Patti Bateman will retire from the public service at the end of May 2020. Patti was instrumental to the establishment and evolution of Saskatchewan’s degree authorization framework. Board members thanked Patti for her warm and professional support and commended her commitment to student-focused and high quality post-secondary education. The Board wishes Patti much joy in retirement.

Adjournment