



## Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

### Minutes of the Twenty-First Meeting Held December 1, 2020 Video/Teleconference

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Members: Kathleen McNutt (Chair), Tavia Laliberte (Vice Chair), Barbara Gustafson, Fay Myers, Laurie Rancourt, Asit Sarkar, Keith Walker,  
Regrets: Jay Notay  
Secretariat: Tammy Jones, Gamal Bin Ghanem, Evan Holmes, Priyanka Roy

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#### 1. Opening Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Kathleen McNutt, 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.

Kathy introduced new board members Dr. Barbara Gustafson and Dr. Laurie Rancourt. Tammy introduced new secretariat members Evan Holmes and Gamal Bin Ghanem.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

**Agenda moved and seconded (Sarkar, Laliberte) as presented. CARRIED.**

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2020 Meeting

**Minutes of June 8, 2020 meeting moved and seconded (Sarkar, Laliberte) to approve the minutes as presented. CARRIED.**

#### 4. Current Applications for Quality Assurance Reviews – Briercrest College and Seminary

The Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB) is awaiting direction from government regarding these applications.

**Moved the discussion for these items to the next meeting of the SHEQAB.**

#### 5. Authorized Cape Breton University's Master of Business Administration in Community Economic Development

The Board was apprised of Cape Breton University's authorization of its Master of Business Administration in Community Economic Development with conditions.

#### 6. Virtual Site Visit

The Board discussed the use of virtual site visits for quality assurance reviews. Virtual site visits will be allowable during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board will consider future requests for virtual site visits post-pandemic. Board members concluded that on campus site visits will prevail as they offer the greatest value while conducting a quality assurance review.

## 7. SHEQAB Expenses

The SHEQAB reviewed its history of meeting expenditures.

## 8. Review of Annual Monitoring Reports

**Moved to review this item at the next meeting of the SHEQAB.**

## 9. Micro-credentials Update

The SHEQAB and the Ministry will co-host the micro-credentials learning event scheduled for December 10 between 1:30 and 3:15. The panel for this event is comprised of experts and professionals across Canada, the United States and New Zealand. This event will focus on what is currently known about micro credentials including its potential uses, how micro-credentials are relevant to students and employers, and how to maintain a level of quality using micro-credentials.

## 10. Quality Assurance Standards – Honours Level Bachelor Degrees

The Secretariat presented a research scan regarding honours level credentials. The Board deliberated the need to develop criteria for honours level bachelor degrees or, as it has in the past, allow expert panel reviewers to determine the acceptability of proposed honours level degree program.

Saskatchewan's program review standards are based on the [Canada degree qualifications framework](#), which does not differentiate honours from undergraduate degrees.

The Board may consider including criteria for honours level degree programs when it conducts a public review of the quality assurance standards in 2023.

## 11. Secretariat Updates

### a. Proposed Amendments to *The Degree Authorization Regulations*

The Saskatchewan government published *The Degree Authorization Regulations, 2020*. The SHEQAB was advised of notable amendments to the Regulations.

### b. Compliance Activities

The Secretariat identified two compliance enforcement matters related to nomenclature. The Secretariat will reach out to both of the institutions to ensure compliance with *The Degree Authorization Act* and its Regulations.

### c. Activities in Other Jurisdictions

The Secretariat provided verbal updates on the activities of quality assurance bodies in other jurisdictions.

## 12. Next Meeting

The next SHEQAB meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2021.

## Adjournment