



Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB)

Minutes of the Twenty-first Meeting Held June 8, 2020 Video/Teleconference

Members: Kathleen McNutt (Chair), Tavia Laliberte, Fay Myers, Jay Notay, Keith Walker, Asit Sarkar, Ryan Walker
Regrets: None
Secretariat: Tammy Jones, Priyanka Roy

1. Opening Welcome & Introductions

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. Priyanka Roy, the newest addition to SHEQAB Secretariat was introduced to the Board.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of the Minutes of the March 16, 2020 Meeting

It was moved and seconded (Walker, Notay) to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2020 meeting as presented. CARRIED.

4. Board Membership

In May 2020, Dr. McNutt issued a call for nominations to the Saskatchewan post-secondary sector seeking candidates to fill two vacant positions on the SHEQAB. Using the SHEQAB Competency and Composition Matrix to determine competency requirements, the subcommittee, comprising Fay Myers and Ryan Walker, prioritized a list of well-qualified candidates. After careful deliberation, the Board selected two candidates to recommend to the Minister.

It was moved and seconded (Walker, Myers) to recommend the selected candidates to the Minister. CARRIED.

5. Cape Breton University's MBA in Community Economic Development

Cape Breton University responded to the SHEQAB's Expedited Review of MBA (CED) that was forwarded to them after the last meeting and, in general, they advised they are agreeable to the Board's recommendations.

6. Monitoring of Authorized Degree Programs

Due to COVID 19, which significantly impacted Saskatchewan, a different approach to monitoring was discussed.

The Board agreed that a lighter touch approach to monitoring would be utilized for the 2020-21 academic year and flexibility in deadlines would be provided to institutions, if needed.

7. Micro-credentials Update

The Board was updated on the work the Ministry of Advanced Education is undertaking to engage the post-secondary sector on micro-credentials. As an important first step in this work, the ministry is consulting the sector in the development of a common language, framework, and principles for micro-credentials or “badges” for post-secondary institutions and industry partners. This work intersects with SHEQAB’s over-arching commitment to ensure quality in Saskatchewan’s post-secondary sector. It also directly supports the Government of Saskatchewan’s Growth Plan commitment to develop an agile and integrated education and training system by, among other things, advancing micro-credential recognition to support career development through lifelong learning.

8. Board Retreat

The SHEQAB decided to delay its fall retreat given the current pandemic situation.

9. Secretariat Updates

a) Proposed amendments to *The Degree Authorization Regulations*

The Board was provided a status update on the proposed amendments to *The Degree Authorization Regulations* which are currently proceeding through government processes.

b) Briercrest Degree Plan

Briercrest has submitted three new applications for degree programs namely – Bachelor of Biblical Studies, Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of General Studies, which will be posted on Saskatchewan.ca for 30 days. Following the public review process, the ministry will conduct a Phase I review of the proposed applications.

c) Compliance Activities

The SHEQAB was advised of compliance issues that have been brought to the attention of the Ministry of Advanced Education that relate to the use of the word “university” in business names and nomenclature for undergraduate theological degrees.

d) Activities in other Jurisdictions

The Board was informed of virtual site visit activities occurring in other provinces as part of the quality assurance review process.

Adjournment