

March 9, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

For yet another year, the post-secondary sector has displayed resilience in adapting to the global pandemic. Such examples are seen through the introduction of safety protocols (masking, testing and vaccinations), as well as the flexible delivery options such as online and blended programs. It is likely flexible delivery options will continue into the future as student preference shifts to more versatile learning opportunities.

The Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB) is committed to ensuring Saskatchewan's quality assurance framework for degree programs positions students and institutions to compete globally. The following is a summary of the activities undertaken by the SHEQAB in 2021.

In keeping with established practice, the SHEQAB met three times in 2021. The meetings occurred virtually in January, June and October. As with the previous year, SHEQAB meetings were held through videoconference. The use of this technology allowed the Board to continue to meet throughout the pandemic while ensuring its safety as well as reducing costs.

The SHEQAB is well into its Strategic Plan, which outlines the Board's direction for a five-year timeframe (2019-2024). Along with our mission, vision and values, our Strategic Plan provides information about the SHEQAB's Operating Principles, its Objectives, Key Actions, Activity and Performance Measures. To learn more, we invite you to review our Strategic Plan which is enclosed for your convenience.

This past year Jay Notay, President and CEO of North West College, resigned from the Board as he assumed a new role as President and CEO of Keyano College in Alberta. In January 2021, Dr. Asit Sarkar, Professor Emeritus of Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan, and Dr. Fay Myers, President of Parkland College, completed their second and final three-year term on the Board. Accordingly, Dr. Kathleen McNutt released a Call for Nominations on October 5, 2021 and the Minister of Advanced Education appointed Dr. Brad Donaldson, the Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry, and Lori Kidney as the newest members of the SHEQAB. Below is a brief summary of the experience each new member brings to the Board.

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Dr. Brad Donaldson is an accomplished executive from the post-secondary sector and global manufacturing operations. He is currently on sabbatical from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) where he is the Vice President Academic responsible for the development, delivery and quality assurance of all credit and apprentice programs.

The Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry brings a combination of academic and theological experience. He is an ordained Minister in the Lutheran Church and currently the President of Luther College and Luther High School. He has over 24 years of experience in the post-secondary sector for undergraduate and graduate-level learning.

Finally, Lori Kidney brings considerable board and committee experience. She is currently a trustee with the North East School Division, Internal Audit and Investment Committee of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, Government and Trustee Bargaining Committee, and a member of the Cumberland and Parkland College Coalition - Chair of the Governance and Risk Committee.

This past year, the SHEQAB commissioned external quality assurance reviews for three proposed degree programs at Briercrest College and Seminary: Bachelor of Arts Biblical Studies/Biblical Studies (Honours), Bachelor of General Studies, and Bachelor of Arts Business Administration. Twelve expert panelists (three per review) from post-secondary institutions across Canada were carefully selected to assess the new degree programs against Saskatchewan's quality assurance standards. In July 2021, the Minister of Advanced Education authorized Briercrest's degree programs.

Saskatchewan now has a total of eleven authorized degrees:

Briercrest College and Seminary:

- Bachelor of Arts Humanities (2013 - ongoing)
- Bachelor of Arts English/English (Honours) (2015 - 2022)
- Bachelor of Arts History/History (Honours) (2018 - 2025)
- Bachelor of Arts Psychology (2018 - 2025)
- Bachelor of Arts Business Administration (2021 - ongoing)
- Bachelor of Arts Biblical Studies/Biblical Studies (Honours) (2021 - ongoing)
- Bachelor of General Studies (2021 - ongoing)

Saskatchewan Polytechnic:

- Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing (2013 - ongoing)
- Bachelor of Construction Management (2017 - 2024)
- Bachelor of Applied Management (2019 - ongoing)

Cape Breton University:

- Master of Business Administration in Community Economic Development (2020 - ongoing)

The SHEQAB is supported by a Secretariat that provides policy and procedural advice, organizes Board meetings, coordinates quality assurance reviews, prepares correspondence, and orients new Board members. The Secretariat liaises regularly with quality assurance organizations throughout Canada, including but not limited to the Degree Quality Assessment Board in British Columbia, Campus Alberta Quality Council, the Ontario Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board, the Council of Ontario Universities' Quality Council, the Ontario College Quality Assurance Service, the Indigenous Institutes Quality Assessment Board, and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. Inter-agency discussions focus on new developments in quality assurance and the sharing of best practices in quality assurance in higher education.

The Secretariat is led by Tammy Jones, Director, with support from her staff: Wanda Billard, Gamal bin Ghanem, Damilola Fadeyi and Evan Holmes.

For more information about the SHEQAB, including member biographies, meeting minutes and Saskatchewan's degree authorization process, please visit the [SHEQAB webpage](#).

If you have any questions, or would like to provide input regarding the SHEQAB's activities, please contact me through the Secretariat by emailing info@quality-assurance-sk.ca. I invite you to forward this letter to others who may be interested in the work of the SHEQAB.

I hope you found this communication informative. It has been a pleasure for my SHEQAB colleagues and me to contribute to the quality assurance of Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector.

Sincerely,



Kathleen McNutt, PhD
Chair, SHEQAB

cc: Honourable Gene Makowsky, Minister of Advanced Education
Kimberly Kratzig, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education
Mike Pestill, Executive Director, Sector Management and Relations,
Ministry of Advanced Education
SHEQAB Board Members
Tammy Jones, Director, SHEQAB Secretariat

Enclosure: Strategic Plan

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Distribution List:

M Denis Simard, Président, Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise
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Dr. Dietmar Kennepohl, Co-Chair, Campus Alberta Quality Council
Dr. Gayla Rogers, Co-Chair, Campus Alberta Quality Council
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Mr. Brett Vandale, Director, Dumont Technical Institute
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Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council
Ms. Alice Wainwright-Stewart, President and CEO, Lakeland College
Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry, President, Luther College
Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President, Lutheran Theological Seminary
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Ms. Catherine Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
Mr. Phil Ruten, President, Millar College of the Bible
Dr. John Loge, President, Nipawin Bible College
Dr. Eli Ahlquist, President and CEO, North West College
Mr. Guy Penney, President and CEO, Northlands College
Dr. Karen Belfer, Executive Director, Ontario College Quality Assurance Service
Dr. Mark Hoddenbagh, President and CEO, Parkland College
Ms. Beverly Brooks, Chair, Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board, Ontario
Mr. Riel Bellegarde, President and CEO, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
Ms. Tavia Laliberte, Vice-President, Academics, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
Dr. Barb Gustafson, Special Advisor to the Provost, Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Dr. Hasan Malik, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Dr. Larry Rosia, President and CEO, Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Mr. Jesse White, President, Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association
Mr. Guy Germain, Senior Manager, Secretariat, Campus Alberta Quality Council

Mr. Christopher Evans, Executive Director, Quality Assurance, Secretariat,
Council of Ontario Universities - Quality Council

Ms. Dorothy Rogers, Director, Secretariat, Degree Quality Assessment Board, British Columbia

Dr. James Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Secretariat,
Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board, Ontario

Mr. Stephen Eger, Interim President and CEO, Southeast College

Dea. Richard Manley-Tannis, Principal, St. Andrew's College

Mr. Robert Harasymchuk, President, St. Peter's College

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Dr. David Gregory, Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic, University of Regina

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Ms. Hannah Tait, President, University of Regina Students' Union

Dr. Patti McDougall, Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience,
University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Peter Stoicheff, President, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Airini, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, University of Saskatchewan

Ms. Rifat Zahan, President, University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association

Ms. Tasnim Jaisee, President, University of Saskatchewan Students' Union