

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY COUNCIL OF ONTARIO

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE

January 23, 2018
10 am – 11:45 am

Council members present:

Mayer, Denis
Herbert, Sue

Guests:

Orencsak, Greg, Deputy Minister, MAESD
Shields, Kelly, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), MAESD

President and Secretary to the Board:

Weingarten, Harvey P.

Staff supporting the Council:

Hicks, Martin, Executive Director, Data & Statistics
Macri, Diana, Chief Administrative Officer
Permato, Ellen, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary
Ross, Matt, Manager of Communications

1. **Call to order**
Denis Mayer, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 10 am and established that a quorum of Council members was present. He welcomed the newest member of the Board, Sue Herbert.
2. **Approval of meeting agenda**
Approved unanimously.
3. **Minutes of the meeting of August 17, 2017**
Motion:
 1. That the Board approve the minutes of Board meeting of August 17, 2017.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Sue Herbert.
Approved unanimously.
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- 4.1 **President's update**
Harvey Weingarten reported that three projects have been completed.

1. Essential Adult Skills Initiative (EASI). 20 institutions and hundreds of students participated in the 3-year project to measure and evaluate the core skills - literacy, numeracy and problem solving - of students in postsecondary education. The study also supports the government of Ontario's current task of measuring skills. A well-deserved compliment to HEQCO's Lauren Hudak who led the project to a successful conclusion. The report will be released in late March or early April.
2. A book of collected essays by international experts on higher education titled *Assessing Academic Quality: International Perspectives* will be published by McGill-Queens University Press in late February or early March. The papers were submitted to HEQCO at its workshop in May 2017. It was attended by 10 international experts and their papers offer international perspectives on and different assessments of measuring academic quality.
3. A paper titled *University Sustainability: Expenditures* will be released soon. It is a part of HEQCO's series on financial and academic sustainability of Ontario's postsecondary system. The paper provides an overview of university expenditures, including operating costs and labour expenses. The report has been reviewed by the Ministry and the Council of Ontario Universities. A similar study looking at colleges was delayed by the strike but will begin soon.
4. April will see the release of a capstone paper on sustainability, which will tie together the three papers in the sustainability series. It will explore options for increasing revenues – tuition – and in limiting expenditures – labour costs. It will also look at the effects of mandatory retirement on hiring younger faculty and performance measurement while assuring the quality of education. The Board members will receive an advance copy for comments.

The president also reported that he is meeting with the Office for Students in the United Kingdom to share experiences about their attempt and HEQCO's research projects to measure the knowledge and skills students acquire as a result of their postsecondary programs.

4.2 Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development update

Deputy Minister Greg Orencsak acknowledged HEQCO's important role in helping the mission of the Ministry. He also mentioned the appointment of Mitzie Hunter as the new Minister.

He outlined the Ministry's priorities:

- College issues. How the system can remain active and viable for the next 5 years; how to tackle labour problems.
- Strategy in international postsecondary education.
- To increase graduates by 25% over the next 5 years. This includes accelerating the growth of graduates in AI.

Other highlights of his update:

- HEQCO is required to undergo a mandated review every 7 years. The last one was completed in June 2016. The Ministry is reviewing the recommendations made in that review.
- He will discuss with H. Weingarten the Minister's Mandate letter to ensure that HEQCO's future plans are in line with and supportive of the Ministry's work.

- The Strategic Mandate Agreement on the college system (delayed because of the strike) will soon be posted.
- 2 new Legislative Acts: 1) French language technical implementation group for universities; 2) Indigenous Institute with an independent council.

5.1 **2nd and 3rd quarter 2017-18 financial reports**

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the 2st and 3rd quarter financial reports 2017-18 for submission to the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Sue Herbert.

Approved unanimously.

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Diana Macri informed Sue Herbert that HEQCO has never exceeded its budget limits.

6.1 **Multi-Year Business Plan 2018-2021**

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the Multi-Year Business Plan 2018 to 2021 for submission to the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Sue Herbert

Approved unanimously.

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Note: The Business Plan will incorporate Denis Mayer's suggested minor changes before it is finalized and sent to the Minister.

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.

Next Board meeting (In person):

April 26, 2018

HEQCO, 1 Yonge St, Suite 2402

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

(Lunch will be provided)