

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY COUNCIL OF ONTARIO

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

October 18, 2018

1 pm – 3:30 pm

Council members present in person:

Herbert, Sue
Lang, Pat
Mayer, Denis
Zegarac, George

By phone:

Milloy, John

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 1 pm and established that a quorum of Council members was present.

2. Approval of meeting agenda

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Pat Lang.
Approved unanimously.
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3. Minutes of the meeting of June 14, 2018

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the minutes of Board meeting of June 14, 2018.

Moved by Pat Lang; seconded by Sue Herbert.
Approved unanimously.
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4.1 Acting Chair's update

Denis Mayer reported on the following:

- Performance review of the CEO has been completed.
- Mandate letter from the Minister was forwarded to Board members on September 10, 2018.

- The Audit Committee met to review HEQCO's 1st and 2nd quarter 2018-19 financial statements.
- Board members have discussed the executive recruitment process.

4.2 **President's update**

Harvey P. Weingarten described recent interactions with the new government. The Minister is open to engaging HEQCO in issues the Council has been working on, e.g. performance indicators, differentiation, accountability, skills measurement, and funding formula.

Free Speech Policy: He met with Colleges Ontario and the Council of Ontario Universities. HEQCO will analyze submissions but will not investigate nor recommend penalties. A small group of staff in HEQCO has been tasked to review submissions and write recommendations. For accountability and transparency, the group will prepare a policy outlining the criteria to be used and will document actions taken.

Apprenticeship: HEQCO has done some analytical research and published reports on the apprenticeship system in Ontario. It plans to continue with research on the ratios, registration and completion, the effectiveness of apprenticeship to address worker shortages, and how Ontario compares with other provinces. It is important to determine the issues, and understand the critical moving parts to ascertain how to move forward.

Fiscal sustainability: HEQCO has been working on issues of sustainability, performance measurement and funding for some time. He will be involved in a series of upcoming meetings related to the Strategic Mandate Agreements.

Math skills: The Council has previously published a report emphasizing numeracy as an essential skill that students need in order to succeed. It is acknowledged that you cannot solely solve the skills issue at the postsecondary level. At present, HEQCO is collaborating with the Mowat Centre on an innovative research project to access, analyze and mobilize data relating to the education, skills and labour market outcomes of Canadians, and to disseminate the findings to inform policy development.

All of the above will be incorporated into HEQCO's Business Plan. He will continue to give updates at every Board meeting.

By the end of November, HEQCO will release the results of skills-assessment pilots undertaken in partnership with 20 Ontario colleges and universities and with funding support from the federal and Ontario governments.

4.3 **Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development Update**

Deputy Minister George Zegarac noted the Ministry's intent to use HEQCO's expertise to support the Government's agenda, which includes:

- Free speech.
- Apprenticeship; how to get more young people interested in trades.
- Accountability and sustainability; fiscal challenges require a more aggressive approach to accountability.
- Math skills; how is Canada faring compared to other provinces and countries?

The Ministry will be calling on HEQCO to give pragmatic advice related to a better integrated system.

5.1 Audit Committee Report

Denis Mayer noted that the Chief Administrative Officer reported on the 1st and 2nd quarter financial statements to the Audit Committee. The members were satisfied with the details of the report.

5.2 1st & 2nd quarter financial statements 2018-19

Motion:

1. That the Board accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve the 1st and 2nd quarter financial statements 2018-19 for submission to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Sue Herbert.
Approved unanimously.
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5.3 Risk Assessment Report 2018-19

Denis Mayer noted that HEQCO is obliged to submit this report annually using a set format.

Motion:

1. That the Board accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve the Risk Assessment Report 2018-19 for submission to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Moved by Denis Mayer; seconded by Sue Herbert.
Approved unanimously.
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6. Executive Session – in camera

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Note: The next Board meeting will take place on December 13, 2018 at 1 pm.