

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY COUNCIL OF ONTARIO

APPROVED STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING MINUTES November 26, 2015 9:00 am – 1:05 pm

Present

Council Members:

Church, Leslie
Hazell, Cindy
Hill, Michael
Mayer, Denis
Monahan, Chris
Stabile, Mark (via Skype)
Summerlee, Alastair, Chair

Guest:

Levy, Sheldon, MTCU

President and Secretary to the Board:

Weingarten, Harvey P.

Staff supporting the Council:

Bloch-Nevitte, Susan, Executive Director, Communications
Deller, Fiona, Executive Director, Policy and Partnership
Hicks, Martin, Executive Director, Data and Statistics
Macri, Diana, Chief Administrative Officer
Moran, Greg, Director, Special Projects
Permato, Ellen, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary
Wiggers, Richard, Executive Director, Research and Programs

1. Welcome & Introduction

The new chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 9 am and established that a quorum of Council members was present. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to briefly introduce themselves. He then called on Harvey Weingarten to present the evolution of HEQCO.

2. Evolution of HEQCO

Harvey Weingarten traced the progress of HEQCO's work from 2005 to 2015. He then presented the Council's outlook for the next 5 years. The Council is resolute in its commitment to:

- expand research work
- intensify data gathering and knowledge mobilization
- broaden public's accessibility to intelligible and non-editorial analysis of data
- strengthen strategic partnership with government and institutions
- transparency

3. Comments from the Incoming Deputy Minister

Sheldon Levy acknowledged HEQCO as a partner in solving problems.

He has four concerns as he embarks on his new role as MTCU's Deputy Minister:

1. demographics and declining enrolment

2. fiscal sustainability
3. better ways to achieve quality
4. impact of the end of mandatory retirement

The government is interested in a system that pays more attention to students, including their experience and their employability skills, as well as attention to outcomes and financial sustainability. He put importance on the connection between jobs and the economy and said that education leads to a better society. In his view, collecting data could be facilitated by explaining in easy-to-understand terms why the data are necessary and the impact of the results. He underscored the importance of trust and honesty in building and sustaining relationships.

4.1 **Go-forward thinking for 2016-2020**

Harvey Weingarten presented the goals of HEQCO, strategies for achieving goals, and an organizational chart that outlines where the work of the staff is concentrated.

Discussion ensued with the following observations:

- under strategies for achieving goals, add a third sector “for government”
- the belief in government that PSE is an investment, important for the economy
- concern that HEQCO might obscure the element of research by shifting from “research organization...: to “action organization....”
- disclosure of data is inclusive in HEQCO’s mandate
- differentiation should be included
- measuring tool to know if HEQCO has achieved its goals

Note: Mark Stabile left the meeting at 12:05 pm.

4.2 **Update on private member’s bill**

Harvey Weingarten explained that Bill 127: Pathways to Post-secondary Excellence Act (PSE Educational Report), 2015 was introduced by MPP Yvan Baker; it has passed the second reading and well supported by other politicians and student groups.

5.1 **Discussion**

Comments raised on item 4.1 were noted, revisions will be made and a draft document will be circulated to members for their comments. The finalized document will be the new strategic plan of HEQCO.

A member brought up the subject of HEQCO’s 10-year performance review. H. Weingarten answered that the Council has undergone several reviews in the past years and that the Ministry is about to embark on a mandate review. HEQCO constantly receives feedback from the government, institutions and people who have worked for the Council. The Chair asked him to provide a context piece on the reviews of HEQCO. This subject will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

5.2 **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the strategic planning meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY COUNCIL OF ONTARIO

APPROVED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES November 26, 2015 1:05 pm – 2:15 pm

Present

Council Members:

Church, Leslie
Hazell, Cindy
Hill, Michael
Mayer, Denis
Monahan, Chris
Summerlee, Alastair, Chair

Regrets:

Stabile, Mark

President and Secretary to the Board:

Weingarten, Harvey P.

Staff supporting the Council:

Bloch-Nevitte, Susan, Executive Director, Communications
Deller, Fiona, Executive Director, Policy and Partnership
Hicks, Hicks, Executive Director, Data and Statistics
Macri, Diana, Chief Administrative Officer
Moran, Greg, Director, Special Projects
Permato, Ellen, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary
Wiggers, Richard, Executive Director, Research and Programs

1. Call to order

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and established that a quorum of Council members was present.

2. Approval of meeting agenda

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the meeting agenda.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer

Passed unanimously.

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Diana Macri explained that item on Business Plan was removed from the agenda because the document is being edited to include the comments from the Ministry and the results of the strategic planning session. It will be sent out to members for review.

3. Minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2015

Motion:

1. That the Board approve the Minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2015.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer

Passed unanimously.

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4.1 Revised Certificate of Officers and Directors**Motion:**

1. That the Board approve the revised Certificate of Officers and Directors to reflect the appointments of Alastair Summerlee and Leslie Church as Chair of Board and member, respectively.

Moved by Cindy Hazell; seconded by Michael Hill
Passed unanimously.
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5.1 Internal Audit Report**Motion:**

1. That the Chair, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, submit the Audit report together with HEQCO's follow-up letter of November 11, 2014 to the Minister in accordance with the requirements of the MOU.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Leslie Church
Passed unanimously.
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5.2 External Audit**Motion:**

Considering the recent and unexpected resignation of the current auditor and the time required for a full Request for Services (RFS) process, that the Board approves the Audit Committee recommendations as follows:

1. that HEQCO engage the services of Collins, Barrow Toronto LLP to carry out an external audit for one year, fiscal year 2015/16, based on the terms quoted in the proposal to HEQCO dated November 18, 2015, and that,
2. HEQCO proceed with a request for services (RFS) in order to engage external auditors for the subsequent five years

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Denis Mayer
Passed unanimously.
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The chair conveyed his surprise and displeasure in the sudden resignation of PricewaterhouseCooper. He intends to write a letter to PWC.

5.3 2nd quarter 2015-16 financial statement**Motion:**

1. That the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, approve the 2nd quarter 2015-16 financial statement for submission to the Minister.

Moved by Michael; seconded by Denis Mayer
Passed unanimously.
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6. Executive session (in camera; Board members only)**7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm