

Higher Education Quality Council

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2014

12:08 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Present

Council Members:

Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Chair
Cindy Hazell
Michael Hill
Paddy Buckley (by phone)
Richard Dicerni (by phone)

Regrets:

Mark Stabile

President and Secretary to the Board:

Harvey P. Weingarten

Staff supporting the Council:

Diana Macri, Chief Administrative Officer
Susan Bloch-Nevedt, Executive Director, Communications
Fiona Deller, Executive Director, Policy and Partnership
Martin Hicks, Executive Director, Data & Statistics
Ellen Permatto, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. and established that a quorum of Council members was present.

2. Meeting Agenda was approved by all members.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. That the Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 11, 2014

Moved by Cindy Hazell; seconded by Richard Dicerni
Passed unanimously.
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4.1. Chair's update

There is no update from the Deputy Minister because the government has a 'caretaker' role only until a new or returning government is sworn in.

The Chair received a note from the Ministry informing her of the appointment of two directors to assume the role of acting ADM of Postsecondary Education Division (PSED) on a rotational basis as of June 2.

The Chair is pleased to learn from media clippings that HEQCO's work is being noticed and that HEQCO's staff are active in their dialogue with stakeholders.

4.2 **President's update**

HEQCO continues to complete a set of projects from previous years and initiate new projects. A recently started project will explore and evaluate models to assess the economic impact of postsecondary institutions.

He and Fiona Deller met with the Clerk of the Privy Council who expressed interest in getting a sense of the number of students with university baccalaureates who then go to college to obtain a credential. They also met with the Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Multiculturalism regarding how postsecondary institutions could contribute to the resolution of the skills gap. The Minister has invited him to participate in the National Skills Summit to be held on June 25th in Toronto.

The President/CEO would like to invite Paul Genest, MTCU's Special Advisor on Strategic Mandate Agreements, to the July Board meeting to give a report on how HEQCO has impacted and influenced the conversations on SMAs.

The Council is in discussion with the Ministry to gain access to the OEN database, while respecting concerns for privacy.

There are numerous requests for HEQCO and its staff to speak and participate at meetings, conferences and workshops -- a testament to the quality and relevance of the Council's work.

He also spoke about the Council's recent study on faculty workload, reiterating that accessing databases is critical to achieving a more fulsome study of faculty workload.

He then called on Martin Hicks, Executive Director, Data and Statistics, to make a presentation on the value of a postsecondary education. The presentation addressed various impacts including wages, employment, return on investment and student debt.

The President provided an update on coverage surrounding the faculty workload study. He also said that the Board will receive a synopsis of progress on current research projects, timed to submission of the quarterly financial report.

5.1 **Annual Audit for Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2014**

1. That the Board approve the Audit Report for Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2014;

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Richard Dicerni
Passed unanimously.
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2. That the Board approve the audited financial statements for FY 2013-14 for inclusion in the 2013-14 Annual Report and for submission to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Cindy Hazell Passed unanimously.
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5.2 **Budget FY2014-15**

1. That until the allocation is known, the Board accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve the FY2014-15 budget which is consistent with last year's budget.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Richard Dicerni
Passed unanimously.
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5.3 Amendments to HEQCO’s Delegation of Authority Framework (Financial)

1. That the Board accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee to approve HEQCO’s amended Delegation of Authority Framework (Financial)

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Cindy Hazell

Passed unanimously.

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6. Executive Session (in-camera) at 1:09

6.1 CEO Performance Objective

1. The Board considered and approved the revised Performance Objectives of the CEO for 2014-15.

6.2 Implications of the “caretaking” period for government agencies

1. The Board was informed of the impact of this “caretaking” period on HEQCO’s work and assured itself that all appropriate plans were in place to maintain momentum on the delivery of the operational plan.
2. The Board noted that all activity related to Board appointments and reappointments was inactive during this period and will await further word from the Government before taking any action regarding the membership of Board committees.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Approved:

Cindy Hazell
Interim Chair

Harvey P. Weingarten
Secretary

Date

Date