

Higher Education Quality Council

MINUTES BOARD MEETING October 29, 2014 12:08 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Present

Council Members:

Cindy Hazell, Interim Chair
Mark Stabile (via Skype)
Michael Hill (via phone)
Chris Monahan, MTCU

Guest:

Paul Genest, Special Advisor on Strategic Mandate Agreements, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

President and Secretary to the Board:

Harvey P. Weingarten

Staff supporting the Council:

Diana Macri, Chief Administrative Officer
Susan Bloch-Nevitte, Executive Director, Communications
Martin Hicks, Executive Director, Data and Statistics
Richard Wiggers, Executive Director, Research and Programs
Ellen Permato, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

1. Call to order

The Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. and established that a quorum of Council members was present. She welcomed back two Board members: Michael Hill, whose re-appointment to the Board was recently approved by the Cabinet, and Chris Monahan, who was on secondment to Queen's University for the past months.

There was no update from the Deputy Minister.

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 June 6, 2014

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Mark Stabile.

Passed unanimously.

October 2014/Motion 1

4.1. Chair's update

The Interim Chair noted that Paul Genest, Special Advisor to the Ministry on Training, Colleges and Universities on Strategic Mandate Agreements would join the meeting to present an update on the SMAs.

She had asked the staff to distribute copies of:

- a letter from the Deputy Minister confirming the budget allocation of HEQCO;
- the Minister's approval of HEQCO's Multi-year Business Plan 2014 to 2017 and 2014-15 Research Plan;
- HEQCO's Annual Report 2013-14, which was submitted to the Minister and awaiting to be tabled.

She informed them of the letter she sent to Minister on the need to appoint new HEQCO Board members; two members have resigned after being appointed to other positions. She and Harvey Weingarten plan to submit a list of names to be considered. She asked the members to suggest persons who might qualify.

In the Annual Report, HEQCO's original four-point research priorities (access, labour market alignment, learning outcomes and system design) as shown in the Research Plan were compacted into three by combining learning outcomes and labour market alignment because both address the skills and abilities that postsecondary students acquire through their education.

4.2 President's update

HEQCO continues to interact with the Ministry. He and senior staff have been invited to speak at numerous conferences, enhancing awareness and visibility of HEQCO's work.

5.1 Project Status update

The President submitted to the Board a summary of current research projects timed to the completion of the quarterly financial report. The report shows funds allocated to each of the projects.

Projects mentioned in his report include:

- Release of the *Learning Outcomes Assessment Practitioner's Handbook*;
- Completion of the research on the outcomes of job ads placed by employers for entry level positions;
- HEQCO's two-day conference in November on apprenticeship and the skilled trades;
- Publication of a paper on numeracy skills in Ontario postsecondary students;
- Investigation of design-type thinking's application to regional postsecondary planning;
- Performance Indicator report on postsecondary education in Ontario and Canada;
- Examination of the best ways for postsecondary institutions to document their economic impact.

Chris Monahan mentioned a recent symposium concerning research projects funded by the Ontario Human Capital Research and Innovation Fund (OHCRI). The Ministry and HEQCO are partners in an initiative on small scale policy research-focused projects.

5.2 Financial Statements

Motion:

For approval

1. That the Board approve the 1st & 2nd quarter 2014-15 Financial Statements, and the 4th quarter 2013-14 Financial Statement for submission to the Minister.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Mark Stabile.

Passed unanimously.

October 2014/Motion 2

6.1 Revised Certificate of Officers and Directors

Motion:

For approval

1. That the Board approve the revised Certificate of Officers and Directors to reflect the position of Cindy Hazell as Interim Chair.

Moved by Mark Stabile; seconded by Michael Hill

Passed unanimously.

October 2014/Motion 3

- 6.2 The Chair asked Michael Hill if he would be willing to continue as Chair of the Audit Committee. She also asked Mark Stabile if he could join the Audit Committee. Both agreed.

Risk Assessment update 2014-15

Diana Macri said that the Risk Assessment Reporting Tool form is a template with prescribed questions. The answers provided by HEQCO have been reviewed by the internal auditors (MTCU).

Motion:

For approval

1. That the Board approve the updated Risk Assessment 2014-15.

Moved by Michael Hill; seconded by Mark Stabile

Passed unanimously.

October 2014/Motion 4

Note: This item was presented before Item 7.1

7.2 Deep dive: Performance Indicators

Martin Hicks made a presentation on Performance Indicators 2015. He elaborated on the Canadian Postsecondary Performance Index's three components: Access, Value to Students and Value to Society.

He showed graphs on:

- a province-by-province comparison of university, college and trades attainment for 25 to 34 year olds, 2013;
- *PIACC's average literacy and numeracy scores for 25 to 34 year old high school

- and university graduates and the difference in these average scores;
- Mean normalized H-scores of faculty members in universities in each province; and
- University average operating dollars per FTE student, 2011;

* *Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies*

7.1 Strategic Mandate Agreements

Paul Genest, Advisor, was invited to present the achievements of Strategic Mandate Agreements. He noted:

- All 45 postsecondary institutions in Ontario have signed SMAs;
- Ministry has discussed the detail with each institution;
- Discussions reflect movement towards greater use of evidence, more transparency and a shared accountability for the overall system;
- Discussions have encouraged further collaboration among institutions;
- A move toward a more collaborative approach to Ministry and institutional interaction; and
- Institutional aspirations need to fit within a broader policy landscape, reflecting government priorities, and take into account activities underway at other institutions.

He acknowledged HEQCO 's work in differentiation as providing:

- 1) a compelling conceptual frame accepted by the Ministry;
- 2) a high level of analysis of draft SMAs, plus a credible, focused set of recommendations;
- 3) a timely data set focused on research intensity.

HEQCO also helped define the critical features of next steps, e.g. Funding Formula reform.

8. Executive Session (in camera; Board members only)

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Approved:

Cindy Hazell
Interim Chair

Harvey P. Weingarten
Secretary

Date

Date