



**BOARD VIDEOCONFERENCE
December 8, 2021
2:00 p.m. – 3:49 p.m.**

MINUTES – OPEN SESSION

Board members present:

Lang, Pat - acting board chair
Brooks, Beverly
Woolf, Daniel
Schnarr, Karin
Tapp, Shelley (ex-officio)

President/CEO and secretary to the board:

Deakin, Janice

Staff support:

Colyar, Julia - vice president, policy and research
Brown, Kale - director, finance and administration
Rani, Megna - executive assistant and recording secretary

1. Call to order

Pat Lang, acting board chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00p.m. and established that a quorum of council members was present.

2. Approval of meeting agenda

Motion:

That the board approves the meeting agenda.

Moved by Beverly Brooks; seconded by Karin Schnarr
CARRIED
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3. Minutes of Meeting of October 13, 2021

Motion:

That the board approves the minutes of the meeting of October 13, 2021, with the amendments made as noted.

Moved by Daniel Woolf; seconded by Beverly Brooks
CARRIED
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4. Updates

4.1 Ministry of Colleges and Universities update

Shelley Tapp, Deputy Minister reported on the following:

- The Deputy thanked Pat for assuming the role of Acting Chair and announced a new Board member has been appointed as of December 2nd. Her name is Deborah Dubenofsky and she will be attending our next Board meeting in the new year.
- An update was provided on the highlights of the Fall Economic Statement which were released on November 4th. It included updates on the province's financial outlook and priorities for the future. It also included several items and initiatives for MCU and the assessment of the impact research in postsecondary education sectors. Some of the highlights were:
 - Investing a total of \$48 million over the next two years in research supports that are of strategic value to the province.
 - An additional \$8.7 million, for a total of \$27.9 million in 2021-22 to increase mental health support for students in the postsecondary education sector.
 - Expanding nursing education in Universities and Colleges by increasing enrollment by 1000 registered nurses and 1500 registered practical nurses.
 - Ensuring that the new campus of the Université de l'Ontario français (UOF) is exempt from property tax just like other Universities in Ontario.
- An update was provided on one of the major priorities for the government, nursing education. The Deputy mentioned there was a change to the nursing degree delivery model and now institutions can choose whether they want to deliver their nursing degree programs independently or collaboratively with another institution.
- The province announced a \$35 million investment in support expansion of nursing enrollment and a one-time funding commitment aimed to introduce 1130 additional practical nursing graduates and 870 bachelor of nursing graduates into healthcare system starting in 2023.
- An update was provided on college credentials and the fall Red Tape Reduction Package that was introduced as the *Supporting People and Business Act* on October 7. This included a commitment to exploring options for expanding the degree-granting authority of colleges. The report Janice and the team worked on has been received and will be reviewed. The Deputy thanked the team for all the hard work and working within the compressed timelines provided.
- An update was provided on virtual learning. In December 2020, a virtual learning strategy was launched with an initial \$50 million investment and an additional \$21.4 million announced in the 2021 Ontario budget. The Deputy highlighted that a total of \$70 million has been invested in this critical work. There are about 400 virtual learning and educational projects which were funded earlier this year through a call for proposals.
- An update was provided on the HEQCO mandate letter, which has been finalized and delivered. The letter includes agency sector priorities which are defined by the Treasury Board Secretariat as they do for all agencies. For priorities in 2022-

2023 as mentioned in October, two additional new agency sector expectations have been added on - diversity and inclusion and COVID-19 recovery. This is in addition to evaluating how free speech is being addressed across the postsecondary sector, as well as to provide reports and recommendations to the ministry on the results of such research and evaluation.

- An update was provided on the 2020-2021 HEQCO Annual report. It was tabled in the legislature on October 21st. The update thanked everyone for submitting and has been posted online. Also, the update thanked HEQCO for the campus free speech policy review which has been completed and posted online.
- Lastly, an update was provided regarding the HEQCO Board Skills Matrix. Deputy thanked the Board for updating this information for the new board members and submitting this to the Minister in November.

4.2 Board chair (acting) update

Pat Lang reported that she and Janice Deakin have their scheduled bi-weekly Zoom meetings and continue the practice which has been established for a long time and there are no major concerns to report to the Board. Lastly, she mentioned the work Kale has been doing on the consent agenda and hopes that will streamline things for the Board members.

4.3 President and CEO update

Janice Deakin reported HEQCO's ongoing engagement with MCU, not only with the Deputy and the ADM, but at the staff level for working on projects which have expanded, especially with the data sharing agreement. Discussions with Colleges Ontario and Council of Ontario Universities have also developed. She has regular meetings scheduled with Linda Franklin and Steve Orsini to speak about issues or sharing information. It has been great to establish these relationships.

Janice mentioned she and Julia attended the Colleges Ontario Higher Education Summit a week ago and it was her first conference as President of HEQCO, but also her first in-person conference in over two years. It was an event to network, be present and to engage, but also was a great day meeting college colleagues and reputable speakers.

Janice reiterated the Deputy's update regarding the credentials report. Janice mentioned HEQCO was requested by virtue of a memo sent to Sue Herbert on November 9th by the Minister asking us to address several questions related to their exploration of the expansion of degree offerings in the college sector. The Minister was aware of the larger credential report on which HEQCO is working. MCU consequently requested that HEQCO address number of questions as MCU is interested in HEQCO's perspective. Julia, Janice and the team provided the report to the Deputy on Monday, December 6. The Deputy confirmed today and acknowledged receipt of the report.

As Janice noted at our previous Board meeting, our Humber intern students from the research analyst program are onboarded in spring and fall. Our fall students have now completed their three-month term with us. HEQCO will be welcoming two new spring interns in May.

Lastly, HEQCO's Freedom of Speech report was submitted last month, and the Deputy has acknowledged receipt of this report.

5. Consent Agenda

5.1 Accessibility Policy Update

Motion:

That the board approves the updated HEQCO Integrated Accessibility Policy and Multi-year Accessibility Plan.

Moved by Karin Schnarr; seconded by Beverly Brooks.

CARRIED

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5.2 Policy Review Schedule

Received for information.

5.3 2021-2022 Agency Risk Assessment Feedback

Received for information.

5.4 2022-2023 Mandate Letter

Received for information.

6. Research Presentation

Amy Kaufman and Haggar Effah, two members of the research team, presented "*It's not perfect, but the needle has moved*": *Understanding the experience of women in academia*. Their presentation outlined the background of the Women in Academia project, aims of the research, methodology, results of the findings, key takeaways and recommendations.

7. Finance

8. Governance & Accountability

8.1 Multi-Year Business Plan 2022-2025

Motion:

That the board approves the HEQCO Multi-Year Business Plan 2022-2025 for submission to the Minister.

Moved by Beverly Brooks; seconded by Daniel Woolf

CARRIED

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9. Other Business

10. In Closed Session

The Board moved to in closed session at 3:49 p.m.

11. In Camera Session

There was no in-camera session.