

CAMPUS ALBERTA QUALITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Twelfth Council Meeting – 15-16 June 2006 Mount Royal College (15 June), DeVry Institute of Technology-Calgary (16 June)

Council

Present: Doug Owram (Chair), Michael Faulkner, Dianne Kieren, Garry McKinnon, Peter Meekison, Cliff Soper, Lucille Walter, Keith Ward, Mo Watanabe

Absent: Dan Gaynor

Secretariat Marilyn Patton (Director), Guy Germain (Manager), Meg Walker (Research and Policy Analyst)

Guests Dr. Dave Marshall, Dr. Robin Fisher, Peter Seto, (for agenda item 1 only)
Dr. Tom Keenan (for part of agenda item 3 only)
Dr. Robert Woodrow (for part of agenda item 4 only)
Joe Lund, Jim Barmby (for agenda item 8 only)

Thursday, 15 June 2006

The Chair welcomed members to the twelfth meeting of the Campus Alberta Quality Council.

1. Presentation by Mount Royal College

Dave Marshall provided an introduction to the College, its history and its proposed future. Robin Fisher described its degree-granting initiatives. A question and answer period followed.

2. Approval of minutes – 15-16 March 2006

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the 15-16 March 2006 minutes be adopted, as amended.
CARRIED

3. Athabasca University – continued consideration of a proposal for a Doctorate in Distance Education

Athabasca University is seeking approval for its first doctoral program, a Doctorate in Distance Education. At its 6 October meeting, Council had agreed to the institution's request for a blended and expedited review of the proposal should it be referred to Council. At the 15-16 March meeting Council ratified the appointment of the review team and agreed that an international reviewer be recruited to conduct a desk review of the program. The team has since conducted its site visit to the University and Council has received its report as well as the report of the Australian reviewer.

Dr. Tom Keenan, Chair of the program evaluation team, joined the meeting via teleconference to answer questions on the evaluation team report and the institution's response to it.

Prior to Dr. Keenan's departure, Council's Chair thanked the team for an excellent report.

Council AGREED to continue discussion of Athabasca University's doctoral program in Distance Education at a subsequent meeting once further information is provided by the University.

4. Alberta Universities Association (AUA) re degree program approval process

Dr. Robert Woodrow joined the meeting to discuss the degree program approval process as it pertains to universities wishing to propose new degree programs or changes to existing ones. It was noted that Council's information needs depend on the proposed program and the institution's degree-granting experience and that CAQC would continue to work with the AUA to clarify its expectations for differing proposals.

Before his departure, the Chair thanked Dr. Woodrow for meeting with Council and for the productive discussion.

5. Distance delivery standards

At its March 2006 meeting, Council had discussed its draft guidelines/standards on distance education and agreed to consult with stakeholders in order to fine tune the document.

Members discussed the feedback received to date from stakeholders, made suggestions for further revisions, and AGREED to discuss a further draft of the document at a future meeting.

6. CAQC Chair and Secretariat report

The Chair briefly reviewed the Chair and Secretariat report and provided updates on several issues including his presentation to the Standing Policy Committee on Education and Employment.

It was noted that subsequent to the March 2006 meeting and via e-mail, Council members had ratified membership of both the Mount Royal College organizational evaluation team and the Grant MacEwan College Bachelor of Commerce program evaluation team.

The April 2007 International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) conference in Toronto was also discussed. CAQC has been asked to contribute to the conference. The INQAAHE planning committee has also asked the Secretariat to pursue a sponsorship of the conference.

As the current CAQC Chair has submitted his resignation subsequent to his move out of province, the Secretariat's Director provided an update on the recruitment process for the new Chair and the vacancy created when Dan Gaynor's term expires in July. A subcommittee was struck to evaluate the applications and make recommendations to the Minister.

As there would be a period when Council would be without a chair, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Keith Ward be appointed Council's Vice Chair in the interim.

CARRIED

7. Follow-up from March 2006 Council meeting

The Chair provided an update on several issues including his meeting with the Deputy Minister about liability of reviewers.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council adopt the Academic Freedom and Scholarship statement and that it be posted on Council's website for use by applicants and reviewers.

CARRIED

Friday, 16 June 2006

8. Presentation by DeVry Institute of Technology-Calgary

Joe Lund, DeVry Institute of Technology–Calgary's President, and Jim Barmby, its Dean of Academic Affairs, provided an informative presentation on the institution, its programs, and its future degree-granting initiatives. A question and answer session followed.

9. DeVry Institute of Technology - First Comprehensive Evaluation

The Secretariat's Director provided an overview of the planned comprehensive evaluation and an update on the recruitment of the evaluation team. Members then identified areas they wished the reviewers to address in their report following a fall site visit.

10. Joint meeting of CAQC and BC's Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB)

The Chair provided a summary of the joint meeting of members of Council and BC's Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB) which was held on 9 May in Vancouver. Those in attendance agreed that the joint meeting had been very productive. Members discussed the outcomes of the meeting and highlighted the importance of mutual recognition and further cooperation between the two provinces. The 28 April 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Alberta and British Columbia was also discussed.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that CAQC recommend that the Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the MOU include the Chairs of the Campus Alberta Quality Council, Degree Quality Assessment Board, Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer and the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer, as well as representatives of the post-secondary institutions in each province.

CARRIED

11. Grant MacEwan College – continued consideration of a proposal for a 4-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The Chair provided an overview of the history of the proposal to date and members discussed MacEwan's addendum to the proposal, the evaluators' report and the institution's response to it.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education approve Grant MacEwan College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

CARRIED

12. Monitoring of MacEwan's approved degree programs

Members discussed the update from Grant MacEwan College on its work towards implementation of its approved degree programs in September 2006 and were satisfied with the information presented.

It was AGREED that Council would request an update on implementation of the programs when MacEwan submits its 2006-07 annual report to the Minister.

13. Nomenclature and Degree Requirements Subcommittee report

The Chair provided an update on the work of the subcommittee which will continue its work under the leadership of Council's new Chair.

14. CAQC Annual Report

It was MOVED and SECONDED that CAQC's draft 2004-05 Annual Report be adopted, as amended.

CARRIED

15. UNBC – consideration of a proposal for a Masters of Education

The University of Northern British Columbia is seeking approval to offer a Masters of Education in Multidisciplinary Leadership at Grande Prairie Regional College. As the University requested a fully expedited review of its application, Council first considered this request. The request was considered within the context of the Alberta/BC MOU and the work underway between CAQC and DQAB.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council accept the University of Northern British Columbia's request for a fully expedited review of its proposed Masters of Education in Multidisciplinary Leadership program to be offered at Grande Prairie Regional College.

AGREED

Following discussion of the proposals, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education approve the University of Northern British Columbia's Masters of Education in Multidisciplinary Leadership program to be offered at Grande Prairie Regional College.

CARRIED

16. Planning the September 2006 retreat

Members discussed Council's upcoming retreat and provided suggestions of agenda items.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council thank Doug Owrap for his outstanding leadership as the founding Chair of CAQC. Members wish him well in his new position in British Columbia and look forward to his continuing contribution to CAQC as a Council member.

CARRIED

The next scheduled meeting of Council is a teleconference set for 11 August.