



Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board
Commission d'évaluation de la qualité de l'éducation postsecondaire

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February 19, 2010

The Honourable John Milloy
Minister, Training, Colleges and Universities
900 Bay Street
3rd floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2

Dear Minister:

Re: Application from George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology for consent to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Early Childhood Leadership): Recommendation to Grant Consent

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology applied for your consent to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Early Childhood Leadership).

In accordance with section 5.2 of the Act, you referred George Brown's application on February 29th, 2008 to the Board for its review and recommendation. The Board reviewed the application in accordance with its *Handbook for Ontario Colleges, February 2006* and gave final consideration to the application on July 21, 2009. The Board recommended that you grant consent to George Brown College and that consent be conditional on the College reporting within 2 years and 9 months of the launch of the program on its progress in meeting several commitments made during this review to the Board.

On December 8th, 2009, you asked the Board for advice on whether consent could be granted under the normal standard terms and conditions, without a report on commitments as recommended by the Board.

In addition to those commitments made in its submission, George Brown committed to:

- hire one new faculty member at the doctorate level with specific expertise in the field of early childhood;
- hire one additional faculty member in each of years two to four of the program at the doctorate level with expertise in Early Childhood education and additional faculty with appropriate qualifications as enrolment expands to ensure that 50% of courses are taught by faculty with terminal degrees;
- implement the redesigned program structure;
- update course reading in all core courses;
- improve library collections, especially concerning Early Childhood journals; and
- provide strong support and assuring high-quality experience for students in field placements.

The Board considered the applicant's commitments at its January 19th, 2010 meeting in light of your request.

Based on:

- the applicant's submission;
- the findings of the Quality Assessment Panel appointed by the Board to assess this program against the Board's standards and benchmarks for an Honours Baccalaureate degree;
- the applicant's response to the panel's report;
- any additional materials provided by the applicant to the Board;
- any commitments made by the applicant during the review process; and
- the Board's assessment of the information;

the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board finds that the proposed program meets the Board's standards, and recommends that you grant consent to George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Early Childhood Leadership), to be abbreviated as B.A.A., at the School of Early Childhood, George Brown College, 99 Gerrard Street East, Toronto, ON M5B 2K8.

Should you decide to grant consent, the Board also recommends that consent be conditional on George Brown College

- hiring, as per its commitment, one new faculty member at the doctorate level with specific expertise in the field of early childhood;
- implementing, as per its commitment, the redesigned program structure; and
- updating, as per its commitments, readings for at least the first-year core courses; prior to program launch.

The Board's recommendation is predicated on an assumption that the College will meet the terms and conditions of consent which require it to honour all commitments made in the application and during the course of the review. Should these commitments, which include commitments to hire appropriate faculty, not be honoured, the program will not meet the Board's standards. The risks resulting from inadequate program quality are considerable and can range from individual risks to students who do not achieve the education they expect to the potential harm to the reputation of Ontario degrees. Given their importance, the Board recommends that you seek assurance from applicants that commitments made during the course of the review are honoured.

Yours truly,



Dale Patterson,
Chair

cc Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board
Deborah Newman, Deputy Minister, MTCU
Marie-Lison Fougère, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Programs
Division, MTCU
Nancy Naylor, Assistant Deputy Minister, Postsecondary Education Division, MTCU
Martin Hicks, Director, Postsecondary Accountability Branch, MTCU