



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

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October 27, 2010

The Honourable John Milloy
Minister, Training, Colleges and Universities
900 Bay Street
3rd floor, Mowat Block
Toronto, ON
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Dear Minister:

Re: Application from Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning for consent to offer a Bachelor of Journalism: Recommendation to Grant Consent

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, Humber College applied for your consent to offer a Bachelor of Journalism. In accordance with section 5.2 of the Act, the application was referred on December 18th, 2009, to the Board for its review and recommendation. The Board reviewed the application in accordance with its *Handbook for Ontario Colleges, February 2006*, considered the application on August 9th, 2010, and recommended that consent be denied on the basis that the proposed program did not meet its requirements for faculty qualifications.

Humber withdrew its application and subsequently resubmitted a revised application for consent to offer the Bachelor of Journalism. In accordance with section 5.2 of the Act, the application was referred on September 29th, 2010, to the Board for its review and recommendation. On October 26th, 2010, the Board considered the revised application.

Based on:

- the applicant's submissions;
- the findings of the Quality Assessment Panels 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 reports;
- 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 Board finds that the proposed program meets the Board's standards and recommends that consent be granted to Humber to deliver this program at 3199 Lakeshore Boulevard West.

The Board is recommending that you grant consent despite Humber College not having met the Board's benchmark for faculty qualifications. The Board requires that no fewer than 50 percent of all faculty teaching in the core field of study hold the terminal academic credential in the field or in a closely related field/discipline. Humber College, however, has committed to meeting the standard set by Ryerson University in its Bachelor of Journalism program, which has 23 percent of its faculty with terminal credentials. Given that the Board's criteria are required, pursuant to the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, to reflect standards recognized in

Ontario and elsewhere, the Board accepted Humber's commitments in this regard. The Board accepted this proportion of faculty with terminal credentials as a special standard in Journalism, and has not changed its requirements for faculty qualifications in other fields.

Should you decide to grant consent, the Board also recommends that a condition of consent be that you confirm that Humber's commitments concerning faculty are being honoured two years after program launch.

The Board's recommendations are predicated on an assumption and the Minister's requirement that consent holders will meet the terms and conditions of consent which require them to honour all commitments made in the application and during the course of the review. Should these commitments, which include commitments to hire the appropriate faculty, not be honoured by Humber College, 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 Humber that commitments made during the course of the review are honoured.

Finally, the Board revised its requirements for the breadth/liberal arts curriculum that it requires be included in all college degrees. Humber's overall capacity to offer a liberal arts curriculum within its degrees in applied areas of study was assessed in the context of this submission, and found to be satisfactory. Accordingly, the Board also recommends that Humber be permitted to make changes to the liberal arts offerings within its degrees without the necessity of seeking amendments to its consents to do so.

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