



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

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April 21, 2010

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

Dear Minister:

Re: Application from Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning for Ministerial consent to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Music Theatre Performance): Recommendation to Grant Consent

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning applied for your consent to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Music Theatre Performance).

In accordance with section 5.2 of the Act, you referred Sheridan's application on May 20th, 2009 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 February 16th, 2010.

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 Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Music Theatre Performance), to be abbreviated as B.A.A., at 1430 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, ON L6H 2L1.

In addition to the commitments made in its application materials, the College made several commitments during the course of this review, including to:

- adjust the curriculum to meet the Board's breadth requirements;
- provide at least 4 sound-proof tutorial rooms;
- make available a new 2000-square-foot studio with double height space;
- expand library resources;
- adopt a modified mission statement;

- modify admission requirements;
- implement a 14-week internship program;
- implement a hiring plan;
- restructure the capstone project;
- seek funding to support senior-level students for professional auditions;
- develop an alumni tracking system; and
- track research data supporting industry trends.

Should you decide to grant consent, the Board also recommends that consent be conditional on the college ensuring that the four sound-proof tutorial rooms are available at program launch; at least some of the planned faculty hires being full time appointments; and the new studio (which is minimally 2000-square-feet with double height space) being available prior to year three.

The Board's recommendations are predicated on an assumption and the Minister's requirement 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