



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

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July 4, 2008

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

Dear Minister:

**Re: Application from Cornell University
for Ministerial consent to offer a Master of Business Administration program:
Recommendation to Grant Consent**

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, on December 4, 2007, Cornell University applied to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities for consent to offer a Master of Business Administration program at five Ontario locations.

In accordance with section 5.2 of the *Act*, the application was referred on February 1, 2008, to the Board for its review and recommendation. The Board reviewed the application in accordance with its *Handbook for Private Organizations, February 2006*, and gave final consideration to the application on July 4, 2008.

Based on:

- the applicant's submission;
- additional materials provided by the applicant to the Board including:
 - information regarding the applicant's organizational structure and operation,
 - the consultants' report on the program made to the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies,
 - the response of the applicant to the consultants' report,
 - the additional information provided by the consultants to OCGS, and
 - the approval of the program by the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies;

- the following commitments made by the applicant during the review process.
 - The inclusion of the following statement on the Cornell University transcript for the graduates of the program: "This graduate has been awarded an MBA by Cornell University and a second, separate, MBA from Queen's University, Canada. The two degrees are not separately earned, but are awarded for completion of a single joint program."
 - The advertising and promotional material for this program in Ontario, whether it is done by Cornell University or by Queen's University, will include statements that make it clear that the completion of a single program leads to two separate degrees.
 - The addition of a step to its admissions procedure for Ontario-based applicants will receive a form for signature that clearly states that graduates of the Cornell-Queen's Executive MBA program will be awarded an MBA by Cornell University and a second, separate, MBA from Queen's University and that these two degrees are not separately earned, but are awarded for completion of a single joint program;
- additional material submitted to the Board on the applicant's organizational structure and operation and the role that Queen's University is to play in the delivery of the program in conjunction with the applicant;
- any additional material submitted by the applicant, and
- the Board's assessment of the information against the Board's standards and benchmarks for a master degree program offered by a private applicant,

the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board recommends that you grant consent to Cornell University to offer a Master of Business Administration program, abbreviated M.B.A., at the following locations:

- 3389 Steeles Ave E, Room 402, Toronto, Ontario
- 4141 Living Arts Blvd. Mississauga, Ontario
- 79 Wellington St. West, Suite 1205, Toronto, Ontario
- 350 Albert St., Suite 220, Ottawa, Ontario
- 421 Union Street, Kingston, Ontario

In making this recommendation, the Board notes that this proposal calls for the granting of two independent degrees - one by the applicant, Cornell University, and the second by Queen's University - to the graduate for the completion of a single, joint program - i.e., the degrees are not separately earned. While this joint program involves additional requirements beyond those for a single degree, the general practice of awarding two or more separate degrees for a jointly-delivered program is something that the Board is currently analysing with a view to developing relevant definitions and/or benchmarks.

Since the requirement for the Minister's consent under the Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000, does not extend to institutions that are otherwise authorized by an Act of the Assembly to grant a degree – in this case Queen's University, the Board makes the following observations:

- this recommendation relates solely to the proposed activities of Cornell University, and

- it is not to be construed as a precedent that would apply to other applications proposing the conjoint delivery of a program by two or more institutions each of which will award the graduate a separate degree, and each of whom are required to seek and receive the consent of the Minister to offer the program in Ontario.

Yours truly,



Dale Patterson,
Chair

cc Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board
Philip Steenkamp, Deputy Minister, MTCU
Marie-Lison Fougère, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and
Programs Division, MTCU
Janet Mason, Assistant Deputy Minister, Postsecondary Division, MTCU
Shamira Madhany, Director, Postsecondary Accountability Branch, MTCU
Naomi Silver, Private Institutions Unit, Postsecondary Accountability Branch,
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