



Oregon

**State Board of Examiners for
Engineering & Land Surveying**

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EXAMINATIONS & QUALIFICATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

April 10, 2009

President Laszlo called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. in the conference room of the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS) office at 670 Hawthorne Avenue SE, Suite 220, Salem, OR 97301. President Laszlo appointed Ms. Newstetter as a temporary member of the Committee for compliance of quorum requirements.

Members present were:

Ken Hoffine (arrived at 11:10 a.m.)
Amin Wahab
Mari Kramer
Ed Butts (excused absence)
Sue Newstetter, Temporary Committee Member

Staff present was:

Mari Lopez, Executive Secretary
Matt Bryan
Jennifer Carmack

Others present:

Katharine Lozano, Assistant Attorney General
Sue Laszlo, Observer
Marv Pyles, P.E.

New Business:

ELSEES Contract

The Committee reviewed an email from Susan Whitfield, Associate Executive Director with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (NCEES) regarding their desire to dissolve Engineering and Land Surveying Examination Services (ELSEES). The Committee directed staff to collect more specific information for discussion during the June Meeting.

Anticipated Computer Based Testing

The Committee reviewed an email and attached survey from Jerry Carter, Executive Director with NCEES regarding the possibility of converting some or all of NCEES examinations from paper-and-pencil to computer based testing (CBT). The survey was intended for state administrators to review their current statutes and rules to inform NCEES of any possible hurdles CBT may cause. It was

noted that the response deadline had passed (April 3, 2009). After discussion, the Committee determined that feedback would still be sent to Jerry Carter regarding the format and that staff could answer basic questions on the survey. However, policy or opinion based questions should be presented to the Board for review with a sufficient response deadline.

Future of Forest Engineering Examinations

The Committee was joined by Marv Pyles via telephone. Mr. Pyles wanted to inform the Board that Dale Mix will no longer be administering the examinations and expressed his uncertainty of the State of Washington's plans to continue with the Forest Examination. At this time, there is no replacement for Mr. Mix. After further discussion, the Committee decided to add the current MOU on the agenda for the next Committee meeting for further discussion. Ms. Lopez was directed to contact George Twiss, Executive Director with the Washington Board for further information.

Photogrammetry Contract Information

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Doyle Allen, L.S. (Virginia) on behalf of the Colonial States Board of Surveying Registration regarding the Photogrammetry examination contract. The Committee determined that since there may be changes to the contract, it would be the Board's best interest if this information is submitted to the Department of Justice Business Transactions Section for further review.

Washington Structural III rescore

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Terry Graving, Licensing Specialist of the Washington Board regarding a decision made on January 19, 2009. The Washington Board has discontinued the review/rescore process for the Washington Structural III examination. The Committee determined that the Board will need to revise the rules to reflect this change. **The Committee has decided to forward this information to the next Rules and Regulations Committee meeting.**

Registration Reinstatement Request

The Committee received a request from Larry Heath requesting the Committee to consider reinstatement of his professional engineering registration. Mr. Heath's registration expired on 6/30/2003. After a brief discussion, the Committee determined that in accordance with the Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 672.170(4), Mr. Heath's certificate of registration as a professional engineer is not renewable. Therefore, if applicable, he may apply by comity to regain a certificate of registration as a professional engineer. If Mr. Heath does not hold a valid certificate of registration in another jurisdiction, he may apply by examination. Staff will respond to Mr. Heath accordingly.

Unfinished Business:

Gabriel Williams

The Committee reviewed the results from the Law Enforcement Department's investigation on Gabriel Williams. Mr. Williams had submitted a professional engineering application, during the review of the application it was noticed that Mr. Williams provided a detailed experience indicating he had provided engineering services. The LE department found that his engineering activities under the direction and supervision of a professional engineer could not be confirmed. During the investigation, no evidence was provided to support the allegation that Mr. Williams engaged in the unlicensed practice of engineering. The Committee determined that Mr. Williams must complete a

minimum of 4 years of qualifying work experience upon reapplication. Staff will respond accordingly.

Discipline Modification Request

The Committee reviewed a response from Herbert Stephens regarding the Committee's decision during the February 13, 2009 Committee meeting. Herb Stephens requested to modify the discipline of his professional registration from Civil Engineering to Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. After review and further discussion, the Committee determined that Mr. Stephens would not be able to modify the discipline at this time. The Board has decided to schedule an informal conference hearing.

Informational:

2009 NCEES Engineering Award

The Committee reviewed correspondence from NCEES announcing Florida A&M University-Florida State University as the grand prize winner of the 2009 NCEES engineering award for connecting professional practice and education. In addition, there were five additional prize winners; University of Arizona, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Seattle University, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and Virginia Tech.

Future changes to the NCEES Structural Engineering Examination

The Committee reviewed a notice from Tim Miller, Director of Examination Services with NCEES notifying Member Boards that NCEES will be offering a new 16-hour Structural examination. The existing Structural I and II examinations will be offered for the last time with the October 2010 exam administration.

Possible Licensure Requirement Change

The Committee reviewed an email from Jerry Carter, Executive Director with NCEES regarding the potential impact of higher educational requirements for engineering licensure (B+30). **The Committee decided that this information should be forwarded to the May 12, 2009 Board meeting for further review and discussion.**

NCEES Model Law Status

The Committee reviewed an email from Bill Byers, P.E. expressing his views on the movement toward requirement for a MS degree or equivalent in addition to the current requirements (B+30). **The Committee decided to forward this information to the May 12, 2009 Board Meeting for further review and discussion.**

Washington Accord Programs

The Committee reviewed a letter from Jerry Carter, Executive Director with NCEES informing Member Board's that NCEES has been reviewing Washington Accord Programs and discovered that several programs are not substantially equivalent to EAC/ABET accredited programs. No further action was taken.

Review of Applications:

Comity Applications –

The Committee reviewed a comity application from Alpesh Chavada for registration as a professional civil engineer. Mr. Chavada provided an evaluation from the Center for Professional Engineering Education Services (CPEES) that indicates the degree program in Civil Engineering from South Gujarat University is not ABET equivalent. However, after reviewing his application and supporting documentation, the Committee recommended Mr. Chavada to be placed on the list for comity applications approved by the Board for the May Board meeting.

The Committee reviewed an application from John Elwell for registration as a professional civil engineer. Mr. Elwell passed the FE and PE examinations in the State of Wisconsin. However, the PE examination passed in Wisconsin was not discipline specific. The Wisconsin Board submitted correspondence regarding the discipline of the PE examination passed in 1975. After further review of his application, the Committee has recommended that Mr. Elwell be placed on the list for comity applications approved by the Board for the May Board meeting.

The Committee reviewed a comity application for Russell Gentile for registration as a professional electrical engineer. Mr. Gentile successfully passed the FE and PE examination in the state of Illinois. However, the State of Illinois does not grant discipline specific registration. After further discussion and review, the Committee recommended Mr. Gentile to be placed on the list for comity applications approved by the Board for the May Board meeting.

The Committee reviewed the comity application for Yingwei Kaplan for registration as a professional civil engineer. Ms. Kaplan is unable to provide a CPEES evaluation for her foreign degree obtained in China. After further discussion and review of documentation obtained from the applicant and CPEES, it was determined that without the evaluation conducted by CPEES, the Committee had no choice but to deny her application by comity.

Review of Applications:

Examination applications—

The Committee reviewed a response from Zachary Horowitz regarding the Committee's decision made during the February 13, 2009 meeting. Mr. Horowitz requested the Committee reconsider their decision based on information included with his response. After the review of the information and a brief discussion, the Committee determined that the decision reached during the February 13, 2009 meeting is still valid and Mr. Horowitz's request is denied. Staff will respond accordingly.

The Committee reviewed a response from Andreea Simescu regarding the Committee's decision made during February 13, 2009 Committee meeting. Ms. Simescu requested the Committee to revise the letter mailed to her on February 13, 2009. After further review, the Committee denied her request and recommend she submit a reapplication once she has completed the amount of experience required for the professional engineering examination, per OAR 820-010-0230(1)(a). Staff will respond accordingly.

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.