



Oregon

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

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EXAMINATIONS & QUALIFICATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

June 13, 2014

Members present:

Steven Burger, Chair

Anne Hillyer

Jason Kent

Staff present:

Mari Lopez, Administrator

Jenn Gilbert, Executive Assistant

Matt Bryan

Jennifer O'Neill

Brianna Weekly

Others present:

Katharine Lozano, Assistant Attorney General

Bill Boyd, Observer

Ken Hoffine, Observer

Sue Newstetter, Observer

The meeting of the Examinations and Qualifications Committee meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in the OSBEELS Conference Room at 670 Hawthorne Avenue SE, Suite 220, Salem, OR 97301. The Committee adjourned several times to accommodate the other Committees meeting that day.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Informational

NCEES - April 2014 Member Board Memo

The Committee briefly discussed the NCEES - April 2014 Member Board Memo. Chair Burger asked the Committee for input. None was offered. Ms. Lopez informed the Committee that the memo was mostly an informational update.

Unfinished Business

Education and Experience Matrix

As directed during the April 2014 meeting, OSBEELS Registration Staff presented the Committee with a draft matrix for the conversion between experience and education. After reviewing the matrix, it was noted the numbers in the draft matrix were transposed. Staff was directed to correct the matrix and remove the lower tier.

Since any non-accredited degree (degrees from educational institutions not listed in OAR 820-010-0225 or 820-010-0226) must be evaluated by the NCEES Credentials Evaluations (OAR 820-010-0227(2) and 820-010-0228(2)), based on the NCEES Credential Evaluation and with deficiencies identified by NCEES, the following should be applied: one year of education deficiency = two years of additional qualifying experience required.

The Committee determined that qualifying experience must be accompanied by a supervisory reference to be considered. The supervisory reference must be able to attest to having supervision and control as defined in OAR 820-010-0010(6).

No Show Matrix

As directed during the April 2014 meeting, OSBEELS Registration Staff presented the Committee with a draft matrix for applicants who have “no showed” to previous examinations. Chair Burger briefly discussed the Committee past decision with regards to “no show” applicants (*See* February 2014 E&Q Committee Minutes). Mr. Bryan asked which Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) would allow the Committee to deny an application using the new matrix. AAG Lozano referred the Committee back to OAR 820-010-0465 *Application for Readmission to Examination*. Mr. Kent then expressed concerns regarding the new “no show” matrix and brought up a previous query of NCEES Board members and how it resulted in discovering that most Boards, at the time, weren’t concerned with “no show” applicants. Mr. Kent suggested sending the matter to the Rules & Regulations Committee to draft language to revise the rule. Ms. Lopez then asked if a new OAR should be drafted for “no show” applicants. Chair Burger asked AAG Lozano if there was any risk if the Committee denied an applicant based upon their “no show” history. Ms. Lozano briefly explained they could challenge the validity of the current OAR. After discussion, the Committee recommended to the Board to stay with the current “no show” policy outlined in the matrix.

Consider units allowed for OAR 820-010-0635(5)(e)

Ms. Lopez contacted other Member Board’s about how many maximum PDH units they allowed for authoring a book. Mr. Kent expressed concerns regarding the PDH value of authoring a book, (e.g. how much time and research went into authoring the book). Chair Burger expressed similar concerns as did Mrs. Hillyer. The members discussed the Washington Board’s response which stated that they don’t require CPD for engineers; only land surveyors, and also observed that their current valuation for authoring books is consistent with the majority of other states. After discussion, the Committee did not recommend the Board revise its current OAR.

Review of Applications

Comity Applications

Bresko, Adam Blaze – Mr. Bresko submitted an application for registration as a structural engineer by comity. His official verification from the State of Washington (WA) indicates that he passed the Western States (WS) 16hr structural examinations (SE) in 1996. At that time, OSBEELS required passage of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) SE I and II examinations. Mr. Bryan noted that the OARs in effect in at the time of Mr. Bresko’s registration in WA didn’t specify which SE examinations were required by OSBEELS. AAG Lozano noted that the OAR did require the examinations to conform as closely as possible the examinations administered by NCEES. Chair Burger discussed information presented to the Committee during their April 2014 meeting regarding the 1991 WS 16hr SE examinations. That information stated that the 1991 WS 16hr SE examinations seismic content was substantially equivalent to the 1991 NCEES SE I and II examinations. The Committee directed Mr. Bryan to contact the source of the information regarding the 1991 WS 16hr SE examinations to determine whether the seismic content of it and the 1996 WS 16hr SE examinations are equivalent. If there isn’t a significant difference, the Committee recommended to approve Mr. Bresko’s application for comity. If there is a significant difference, Staff was directed to submit the information to the Committee for review in August. There was no further discussion.

Staff Update: It was confirmed that the 1996 WS 16hr SE examination is substantially equivalent to the 1991 WS 16hr SE examinations. As a result, there is no significant difference and Mr. Bresko’s application for comity should be approved.

Laccinoile, Stephen E. – After the review of the information submitted with his application for registration as civil engineer by comity, it was approved to be considered by the Board during the July 8, 2014 meeting. However, Mr. Laccinoile submitted a request to add the structural discipline to his application. Ms. Weekly gave a brief description of Mr. Laccinoile’s examination and registration history with OSBEELS which included letting his registration with OSBEELS lapse in 2006. AAG Lozano explained that because Mr. Laccinoile currently holds a current registration in another NCEES jurisdiction as a structural engineer, which he obtained in a manner “substantially equivalent” to what was required in Oregon at the time of registration, he meets the requirements for registration by comity outlined in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 672.148. After discussion, the Committee recommended the Board approve his application for both civil and structural by comity.

Ledesma, Michael S. – Mr. Ledesma submitted an application for registration as a civil engineer by comity. During the review of Mr. Ledesma’s application, Mrs. Weekly discovered a violation listed in the NCEES Enforcement Exchange database. Chair Burger and Mr. Kent inquired about the current status of the violation and subsequent law enforcement case conducted by the Colorado Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors (CO Board). The case was closed and Mr. Ledesma’s registration with the CO Board is active and in good standing. After discussion, the Committee recommended the Board approve Mr. Ledesma’s application for registration by comity.

Rickard, William M. – Mr. Rickard submitted an application for registration as a mechanical engineer by comity. He provided an official verification from the California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (CA Board) verifying his successful

passage of the NCEES 8hr petroleum engineering exam. Per OAR 820-010-0450, OSBEELS does not conduct an examination or issue a registration in petroleum engineering. Mr. Rickard submitted a written request that the Board consider granting him registration as a mechanical engineer since registration as a petroleum engineer is not offered. After reviewing Mr. Rickard's experience record to determine if his experience as petroleum engineer met the requirements for registration as a mechanical engineer, the members noted that it doesn't meet the requirements for registration as a mechanical engineer, or for PE registration in Oregon, generally. After discussion, the Committee recommends the Board deny the application. AAG Lozano recommended including information regarding petition process (OAR 820-010-0450(2)) with the application denial options form.

Rizman, Raymond – Mr. Rizman submitted an application for registration as a civil engineer by comity. The Committee considered his application during their October 2013 meeting and recommended the Board deny his application. Mr. Rizman responded to his denial by requesting an administrative hearing and with attached correspondence and supporting documentation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). After reviewing Mr. Rizman's additional supporting documentation Mr. Rizman provided with his hearing request, and further discussion, the Committee recommends the Board to withdraw the notice of intent to deny Mr. Rizman's application and approve his application for registration by comity. Sue Newstetter suggested that additional research should be conducted into the Board decision regarding the Washington Accord (minutes, correspondence from NCEES) and be presented to the Committee for review; AAG Lozano noted that prior board decisions on acceptance of the Washington Accord were related to applicants who were attempting to qualify for registration without having passed the FE.

1st Registration Applications

Jeon, Myeong Jun – Mr. Jeon submitted an application for registration as a civil engineer by 1st Registration. His official NCEES Credential Evaluation indicates that his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from the University of Seoul “*did not have a minimum of a two semester (or equivalent) sequence of general chemistry or calculus-based general physics courses.*” He also submitted five reference forms completed by current registrants who verified four years and six months of his qualified engineering experience. AAG Lozano recommended using the two-to-one conversion matrix previously discussed for education and experience. Using the two-to-one conversion rate, the Committee determined that Mr. Jeon would have to acquire an additional year of experience. After discussion, the Committee recommends the Board deny Mr. Jeon's application for registration by 1st Registration. There was no further discussion.

Staff Update: Upon further review, it was determined the Mr. Jeon's application is incomplete and that he needs to submit a reference from a supervisory PE who can verify his additional engineering experience.

Kirita, Akira – Mr. Kirita submitted an application for registration as a mechanical engineer by 1st Registration. He submitted six reference forms completed by individuals who supervise his work, three of whom are registered. They verified nine years and six months of his engineering experience. He submitted a request to waive the supervisory PE reference required by OAR 820-010-0204(2)(b)(A). After discussion, the Committee recommended to approve his request for a waiver. There was no further discussion.

Lee, KyungSook – Ms. Lee submitted an application for registration as a civil engineer by 1st Registration. Her official NCEES Credential Evaluation indicates that her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Civil Engineering degree from Yonsei University has an “*academic program deficiency in math and basic sciences,*” specifically “*A course in calculus-based physics was not taken. Also, a two-semester sequence in general chemistry or calculus-based general physics was not taken.*” She submitted six references completed by registrants who verified four years of her experience. Using the two-to-one conversion rate, the Committee determined that Ms. Lee would have to acquire one additional year of experience. After discussion, the Committee recommended the Board deny Ms. Lee’s application for registration by 1st Registration. There was no further discussion.

Staff Update: Upon further review, it was determined the Ms. Lee’s application is incomplete and that she needs to submit a reference from a supervisory PE who can verify her additional engineering experience.

Ryu, Je Kwan – Mr. Ryu’s application was removed from the agenda after advice from AAG Lozano. There was no further discussion.

Staff Update: Upon further review, using the two-to-one conversion rate, it was determined that Mr. Ryu’s application for registration as a civil engineer by 1st Registration should be approved.

Suzuki, Shinji – Mr. Suzuki submitted an application for registration as a civil engineer by 1st Registration. His official NCEES Credential Evaluation indicates that his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from the Tokyo Metropolitan University is deficient in “*5 semester credit hours in math/basic sciences.*” He also submitted six references from registrants who verified 12 years and three months of his experience; none of whom are registrants. Using the two-to-one conversion rate, the Committee determined that Mr. Suzuki would have to acquire one additional year of experience that is verified by a supervisory PE reference. After discussion, the Committee recommended the Board deny his application.

Examination Applications

Harlan, Paul - Mr. Harlan submitted an application for the April 2014 Oregon Specific Forest engineering examination. His application and request for a waiver of PE references were presented to the Committee during the February 2014 meeting, but was referred to the Regulation Department for review. Following the Regulation Department review and consideration by the Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) in April 2014, his application and request for a waiver were presented to the Committee again for consideration. The Committee briefly discussed the determination made by the LEC. Mr. Harlan submitted seven references from individuals verifying his experience; three of whom are registrants. However, the experience record submitted with his application demonstrates that none of his active practice in engineering work was performed under the direction and supervision of a licensed engineer. Furthermore, he provided no supervisory references for his engineering work experience, and his request for a waiver of professional supervisory references, under OAR 820-010-0212(1)(c)(C) was denied. After discussion, the Committee recommended the Board deny his application. There was no further discussion.

Rogers, William - Mr. Rogers submitted an application for the October 2014 electrical PE examination. He submitted a request to waive the required references. He submitted seven reference forms completed by individuals with knowledge of his experience; one of which is a registrant. He also submitted a request that his experience be considered qualified to sit for the electrical PE examination. The Committee reviewed his experience and determined that, as he also acknowledged in his request, it doesn't meet the definition of active engineering work as defined in ORS 672.005(1)(a) and (1)(b). After discussion, the Committee recommended the Board deny his application. There was no further discussion.

Sandborgh, Sean C. - Mr. Sandborgh submitted an application for the October 2014 environmental PE examination. With his application he submitted a request that his education be considered qualifying under OAR 820-010-0225(2)(d). His application was presented to the Committee during the February 2014 meeting. The Committee directed staff to ask that Mr. Sandborgh obtain descriptions of the courses from the institutions where he completed applicable coursework. Mr. Sandborgh submitted the requested information and it was presented to the Committee during this meeting. The Committee reviewed the course descriptions provided by Montana State University and determined that Mr. Sandborgh's combined coursework meets the requirements outlined in OAR 820-010-0225(2)(d). After discussion, the Committee recommended the Board approve his application for the examination.

Unger, Brian - Mr. Unger submitted an application for the October 2014 mechanical PE examination. With his application, he submitted a request for a waiver of references. His application and request was originally presented to the Committee during the February 2014 meeting. The Committee referred his application to the Regulation Department for review. Following the Regulation Department review and consideration by the Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) in April 2014, his application and request were submitted to the Committee for review during this meeting. Mr. Unger submitted six references from individuals with knowledge of his experience; one of which is a registrant who supervised his work. He also submitted a request for a waiver of references. After reviewing his references and request, it was determined that two (2) years and three (3) months of his required engineering experience was not performed under the direction and supervision of a licensed engineer, and was not verified by a professional reference registered in a NCEES jurisdiction. Furthermore, his request for a waiver of PE references under OAR 820-010-0212(1)(c)(C) was denied because there was no supervisory reference (PE or Non-PE) for the full four (4) years of experience, as is required under OAR 820-010-0212(1)(c)(A). After discussion, the Committee recommended the Board deny his application. There was no further discussion.

Vennavelli, Indrakiran - Mr. Vennavelli submitted an application for the FE examination. His official NCEES Credential Evaluation indicates that his Bachelor of Technology degree in Civil Engineering degree from the Sri Venkateswara University is deficient "12 semester credit hours in general education." He also submitted an official transcript from Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) demonstrating completion of coursework. In addition, he submitted three references from individuals with knowledge of his work; one of which is a registrant who supervised six years and nine months of his work. After reviewing his evaluation (and applying two-to-one conversion rate), transcript, and references, the Committee determined that his

application should be approved. After discussion, the Committee recommended the Board approve his application. There was no further discussion.

Re-applications

Cunningham, Colleen - Chair Burger recused himself from the review of this reapplication. Ms. Cunningham applied for the NCEES civil PE examination. She has applied for this examination six times and has failed the examination three times. Her last attempt was during the April 2014 administration. Since her last attempt, Ms. Cunningham has been engaged in self-study in preparation for the examination, in accordance with OAR 820-010-0465(1). After discussion, the Committee recommends the Board approve Ms. Cunningham's reapplication for the NCEES civil PE examination for October 2014.

Vazques, Anthony - Mr. Vasquez applied for the NCEES mechanical PE examination. He has applied for this examination three times and has failed the examination three times. His last attempt was during the October 2013 administration. Since his last attempt, Mr. Vasquez has been engaged in self-study in preparation for the examination, in accordance with OAR 820-010-0465(1). After discussion, the Committee recommends the Board approve Mr. Vasquez's reapplication for the NCEES mechanical PE examination for October 2014.

Walker, Phillip - Mr. Walker applied for the NCEES fire protection PE examination. He has applied for this examination six times and has failed the examination six times. His last attempt was during the October 2013 administration. Since his last attempt, Mr. Walker has been engaged in self-study in preparation for the examination, in accordance with OAR 820-010-0465(1). After discussion, the Committee recommends the Board approve Mr. Walker's reapplication for the NCEES fire protection PE examination for October 2014.

Files Subject To Monitoring

The Registration Department staff provided a list of files currently be monitored. These files are in various stages of the notice of intent process, with the Regulation Department for review, or have requested a hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings. The Committee reviewed the list and had no comment. There was no further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.