

**General Session Minutes**  
**State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers**  
**May 17, 2011**

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers met in their offices at 300 Capitol Street in Charleston, WV on Tuesday, May 17, 2011. Those present for all or part of the meeting were:

Edward L. Robinson	President
William E. Pierson	Vice-President
Bhajan S. Saluja	Secretary
Richard E. Plymale, Jr.	Member
Leonard J. Timms	Member
Lesley L. Rosier-Tabor	Executive Director
Don W. Johnson	Board Investigator
Debra L. Hamilton	Legal Counsel (via phone)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. The Board meeting minutes for March 22, 2011 (both executive and general session) were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Pierson. Motion carried.

The Board budget summaries for March and April 2011 were received and reviewed. The detailed purchasing card expenditures were also received and reviewed. Ms. Rosier also reported that the document imaging project, previously approved by the Board, was now complete and totaled nearly \$65,000. A motion to approve the current expenditures and purchasing card transactions was made by Mr. Plymale, seconded by Mr. Timms. Motion carried.

The projected FY 2012 Budget and Expenditure Schedule were received and reviewed. A motion to approve the FY 2012 Budget and Expenditure Schedule as submitted was made by Mr. Plymale, seconded by Mr. Timms. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosier presented the Executive Director's report and addressed all Board questions and comments. Ms. Rosier discussed her participation in recent events and presentations made by her and Mr. Johnson to various groups since the last Board meeting. She also reviewed the office's schedule of upcoming activities. A motion was made by Mr. Plymale, seconded by Mr. Pierson, to approve attendance and travel for staff activities outlined in the Executive Director's report and updated 2011 calendar of events, including the addition of Ms. Rubenstein's and Mr. Johnson's attendance both at the CLEAR Conference and NCEES Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

The results from the April FE exam were received last week, nearly one month earlier than usual. The overall pass rate was 53.6% (134 pass, 116 fail). First time pass rate was 56.9%. PE exam results have not been received. Statistical results and institutional summaries will be reviewed in more detail at the July Board meeting.

The effectiveness of the policy requiring the Educational Plans of Study for the 4 time or more repeat examinees was discussed. Ms. Rosier reported that 2 of the 5 individuals who were interviewed by the Board passed the exam, one failed and the additional two were absent.

Ms. Rosier reported that she will be completing her positions as the Northeast Zone MBA representative and NE Zone Awards Committee chair at the end of her term in August 2012. It is her intent to find willing and able replacements this weekend during the upcoming NCEES NE Zone meeting in Annapolis.

The 2012 renewal preparation is underway. Renewal notices will be mailed on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and the on-line registration system will be turned on no later than May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Pierson moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 AM, seconded by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Mr. Plymale moved to enter into General Session with a second by Mr. Pierson. Motion carried and the Board then took the following actions:

1. A motion was made by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Plymale, to schedule complaint C2009-11 for hearing at the July Board meeting if unable to reach a settlement. Motion carried.
2. The Board approved the ethics presentation outline prepared pursuant to the Consent Order in C2010-19. The presentations will be used as a teaching aid for students. Ms. Rosier will provide the respondent with a list of available dates for those presentations. Staff members will participate in the presentations.
3. A motion was made by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Pierson, to schedule complaint C2010-25 for hearing at the July Board meeting if unable to reach a settlement. Motion carried.
4. The Board directed Ms. Hamilton to seek an Attorney General's opinion on the effect of federal exemption or immunity, if any, on W. Va. Code Section 30-13-20 which requires all government agencies, authorities, officials and employees to meet the provisions of Article 13.
5. Mr. Timms moved that complaint C2011-09 be scheduled for hearing at the July meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried.
6. Mr. Robinson recused himself and exited the room during the discussion of inquiry I2011-14. No action was taken on the inquiry.

Based on a motion by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Pierson, the Board took the following actions on Special Cases for Board Action:

1. Bhadresh A. Prajapati's request to sit for the FE exam was approved.
2. James D. Kegley's request for comity was approved.
3. Michael A. Stein's request for comity was approved.

The Board met with Amelia McClure (WV PE #15342) in general session at her request for Board assistance regarding the State Fire Marshal's Office not allowing PEs to be able to do sprinkler layout work now being done by NICET III technicians (or higher certification). Ms. McClure maintains that PEs in many other states are permitted to perform this work. The Board agreed to investigate the situation further and determine if any action by the Board is warranted.

Ms. Rosier discussed a request that the Board received from a registrant. He is requesting the release of the module name of the exam he took when he sat for his PE exam. The WV PE Board is not provided this information by NCEES. However, NCEES will release the afternoon module name with Board approval to do so. After discussion, Mr. Timms made a motion to approve the release of the information. Motion was seconded by Mr. Saluja and carried.

Mr. Timms reported on his recent activities as the NCEES President:

1. He discussed his trip to Turkey to visit the Istanbul University. The university is requesting that they be approved to offer the NCEES FE exam. They are still waiting the results of their ABET evaluation of 22 different disciplines. The university has more than 26,000 engineering students with approximately 35% female students and 45% of female faculty members. Engineering is taught both in English and Turkish. The FE exam is only given in English.
2. The United Arab Emirates are also requesting they be approved to offer the FE examination.
3. Outside of the US, it is his understanding ABET is promoting the use of the FE exam as an assessment tool.
4. Virginia has requested that they be allowed to move from the Northeast Zone to the Southern Zone of NCEES. The Southern Zone voted to accept VA as a member at the Southern Zone Meeting. The NCEES NE Zone will consider the request at their upcoming meeting. If accepted, the motion will come before the Council in August 2011.
5. ASME and other professional societies continue to lobby against the Masters or Equivalent Program.
6. NCEES is proposing the addition of a standing committee on education to address all of the pending items such as the Masters or Equivalent, CBT, etc.
7. The Alternate Pathways to Licensure Task Force has come up with a 6-year program that includes structured learning and an approved mentoring process. The system will require a clearinghouse to oversee the program. The Task Force will present their recommendations for Council consideration in August.
8. Computer Based Training is moving forward. Pearson VUE has been selected as the testing vendor. Contract negotiations between NCEES and VUE are currently in progress.

The NCEES Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 24-27 in Providence, Rhode Island. Currently, Board members expressing an interest in attending include Mr. Robinson, Mr. Saluja, Mr. Timms and Mr. Plymale along with staff members Ms. Rosier, Ms. Rubenstein and Mr. Johnson.

The Board discussed a recent newspaper article addressing the reduction in hours required to graduate from college in West Virginia. Shepherd University recently reduced the number of hours required to graduate from 128 to 120 hours. The Board is concerned about this trend given the already low pass rates for West Virginia examinees.

The NCEES credentials evaluation service was discussed. The operation has been successfully relocated to Clemson, SC. This Council service is projected to lose nearly \$600k this year due to relocation cost and personnel issues and then continued losses (at a much lower magnitude) for the foreseeable future. However, the service is considered a value for the Member Boards and foreign degree applicants and will be continued.

Renewal of the ELSES contract for exam administration was discussed. The AG's office has reviewed the contract and noted changes are to be forwarded to NCEES in the upcoming weeks. No problems are anticipated. Beginning in October, the PE exam will be offered in Morgantown as well as Charleston. Cost effectiveness of the two PE exam sites will be reviewed after two exam administrations.

Methods by which exam candidates are notified about exam results was discussed. Currently formal paper correspondence is sent by the WV PE Board office to each examinee informing them of the results. The new NCEES Examinee Management System now has the capability to report the results to the candidates and some Boards have elected to utilize this method. It was decided that for the foreseeable future this Board will stay with the letter notification.

The new 16-hour structural exam and anticipated score reporting format was discussed. One WV exam candidate sat for both days of the exam during this April 2011 exam administration. Exam results are not yet known.

The re-write of the Engineering Practice Act for submission to the legislature in 2012 was discussed. Staff and AG counsel will work to have a draft re-write ready for review at the September Board meeting.

The Board received an e-mail from the WV Division of Personnel asking if the Board would support adding the non-ABET accredited Architectural Engineering Technology degree from Fairmont State to the Technical Analyst classification series. After discussion, the Board decided not to support the change and asked that Ms. Rosier follow-up confirming her original email response.

The proposed 2011-2012 WV Engineering Education Summit was discussed. The one and a half day event is estimated to cost \$20,000 - \$25,000. The event is an effort to bring together WV engineering deans and department chairs, engineering faculty, ABET coordinators and other relevant administrators to discuss important state and national licensure issues. The Board supports the idea of the Engineering Education Summit and requests Ms. Rosier to continue to work out the details regarding speakers, agenda items, timing of the activity relative to the college year, etc.

The Board received a question from Triad Engineering asking about the use of the word "engineering" in internal company titles. Triad was informed that the Board does not attempt to control internal company titles and would not have a problem with their proposed practice. However Triad was cautioned that some states restrict the use of the word "engineering" or any derivative of the word and it was suggested that they check with the other states where they offer to practice before proceeding with these title changes.

Due to scheduling conflicts the September Board meeting was changed to September 19, 2011.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 2011. The meeting will take place in the Board offices at 300 Capitol Street in Charleston, WV.

Upon motion by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Plymale, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The Board members will be compensated one day per diem plus travel expenses.

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**Edward L. Robinson, P.E.**  
**Board President**

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**Bhajan S. Saluja, P.E.**  
**Board Secretary**