

General Session Minutes
State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers
July 19, 2011

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers met in their offices at 300 Capitol Street in Charleston, WV on Tuesday, July 19, 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

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM. The Board meeting minutes for May 17, 2011 (both executive and general session) were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Pierson. Motion carried.

The Board budget summaries for May and June 2011 were received and reviewed. The year-end FY 2011 revenue and expenditure chart and summaries were also reviewed. The detailed purchasing card expenditures were also received and reviewed. A motion to approve the current expenditures and purchasing card transactions was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Plymale. 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 to various groups since the last Board meeting. She also reviewed the office's schedule of upcoming activities. A motion was made by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Plymale, to approve attendance and travel for staff activities outlined in the Executive Director's report and updated 2011 calendar of events. Motion carried.

The final results from the April exams were discussed. The overall PE pass rate remained at 50%, with the first-time taker pass rate at 52%. The overall FE pass rate was 53.6%, with the first-time taker pass rate at 56.9%.

The annual renewal process continues. Nearly 90% of the PE registrants and COA holders renewed before the June 30th deadline resulting in well over \$500k collected in June including \$45k being collected on the June 30th deadline date alone.

Mr. Timms moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 AM, seconded by Mr. Saluja. Motion carried. Mr. Robinson recused himself and exited the room during the discussion of inquiry I2011-14.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Mr. Timms 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. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Timms, to continue the probationary period in complaint C2009-12 until C2011-08 has been resolved or until further action of the Board. Motion carried. (With regard to C2011-08, the Board directed counsel to remind Respondent of the opportunity for an informal conference with the Board, to which Complainant would be invited to participate and which might help the Board better understand the issues involved.)
2. Mr. Timms moved that inquiry I2011-17 be received and filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pierson and carried.
3. Mr. Pierson moved that inquiry I2012-01 be received and filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Motion was seconded by Mr. Timms and carried.

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

1. Kenneth D. Fennell's request for comity was approved.
2. Richard A. Hall's request for comity was approved.
3. Nirmal Khadka's request for comity was approved.
4. Carl V. Deicas' request for reinstatement was approved.

Mr. Timms reported on his recent activities as the NCEES President. A few key items of interest included:

1. 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, NCEES Foreign Degree Evaluations, etc. If the membership approves the creation of the committee, Mr. Timms has asked to be the liaison.
2. 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 to Council for consideration in August.
3. NCEES and Pearson Vue are moving full speed ahead on the conversion of the FE and FS exams to Computer Based Testing with a target date of the first offering being early 2014.

Mr. Pierson commented on his NCEES activities. He will be at NCEES the first week of August for a FE exam committee meeting and review of the PAKS study.

Ms. Rosier discussed NCEES committee appointments which included herself on EPP, Mr. Johnson on Law Enforcement and Mr. Pierson on his continued EPE duties.

Ms. Rosier reviewed the Northeast Zone meeting minutes for the benefit of those not attending. Skip Harclerode of Maryland has been elected the new Northeast Zone Vice-President.

The NCEES Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 24-27 in Providence, Rhode Island. Board members attending include Mr. Saluja, Mr. Timms and Mr. Plymale along with staff members Ms. Rosier, Ms. Rubenstein and Mr. Johnson. Ms. Hamilton was authorized to attend the Law Enforcement section if her schedule permits. Copies of the conference materials have been requested for the attendees.

Ms. Rosier reported that the NCEES contract for exam administration was approved through the Attorney General's office and a signed copy was returned to NCEES. It is now a multi-year contract and reflects the reduced exam fees which benefit smaller states such as West Virginia.

Ms. Rosier reviewed the status of the CBT Taskforce. NCEES held a webinar on July 12th as a means for communicating the status to all Boards. The proposed NCEES CBT FE exam registration system requires that exam candidates pay for the exam by credit card at the time of registration. This eliminates the Board's ability to waive any fees for first time WV student examinees or subsidize the costs of the exam administration. After discussion, Mr. Timms agreed to take the concern back to NCEES to see if this can't be addressed during the registration and payment process.

The new 16-hour structural exam and score reporting format was discussed. We had one WV exam candidate who sat for both days of the April structural exams.

The policy for addressing repeat exam takers was discussed. Of the 5 candidates who interviewed with the Board prior to being allowed to sit for the April exams, 2 passed, 1 failed and 2 were absent. The Board discussed the effectiveness of the policy and directed Ms. Rosier to revise the policy for repeat takers of an exam. Tentatively the Board would require future examinees to submit an Educational Plan of Study to the Board after 3 failures. They would be required to interview with the Board after 4 failures. They would sit out of the exam process for 1 year after 5 failures and they would not be allowed to sit for any exams in WV after 6 failures.

The Board requested Ms. Rosier contact the two exam interviewees who passed the exam and see what they did differently before taking the exam this time and what they deemed most helpful. It was also suggested that the information gained during her discussions with the successful candidates be used as a teaching point during future interviews and possibly result in a 2012 article for the newsletter.

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 discussed changing to 2 year renewals rather than every year. This will require a legislative change in the way excess funds can be swept from accounts.

Ms. Rosier reviewed the annual report submitted to BRIM addressing Loss Control, Safety and Risk Management. The Board had no changes or additions.

The proposed 2011-2012 WV Engineering Education Summit was discussed. Mr. Pierson sent a letter to the Deans of the engineering programs at all of the WV colleges and universities who have 4-year ABET EAC/TAC programs. Initial response and interest in having the summit has been positive.

Mr. Pierson discussed the possibility of holding the Summit in conjunction with one of the annual Engineering Articulation meetings already being held twice every year. The ETAC meetings already have the major players in engineering education there. Mr. Pierson will revisit the issue with the Deans and ask for additional input.

The Board elected Officers for the upcoming year:

- Mr. Robinson was re-elected Board President
- Mr. Pierson was re-elected Vice President
- Mr. Saluja was re-elected Secretary.

Their terms will begin on September 27, 2011.

The request to address the Board, which was on this meeting's agenda, was rescheduled to the next meeting of the Board. The two hearings, for which this meeting would recess, were settled as the hearings were about to commence. Since only one court reporter appearance fee was incurred, the Board will absorb that cost rather than assess it as an administrative cost.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 27, 2011. The meeting will take place in the Board offices at 300 Capitol Street in Charleston, WV.

Upon motion by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Saluja, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. The Board members will be compensated one day per diem plus travel expenses.

Edward L. Robinson, P.E.
Board President

Bhajan S. Saluja, P.E.
Board Secretary