

APRIL 15, 2000 MEETING

Council makes executive appointments, looks at Members' Forum

by Alison Piper

At the first meeting of PEO's 2000-2001 Council, held April 15 immediately following PEO's annual business meeting, Council approved appointments to the Executive Committee for the 2000-2001 term. Councillor Dick Braddock, P.Eng., was appointed vice president. Councillor Gina Cody, P.Eng., was appointed to the Executive Committee as a member.

Council also passed a motion to allow Lieutenant-Governor-Appointed (LGA) Councillors to select from among them-

selves an LGA Councillor to be appointed to the Executive Committee, which was the procedure followed in 1999. Following the Council meeting, Laurier Proulx, CET, was appointed as an Executive Committee member.

Council received the Order-in-Council from the Lieutenant Governor to reappoint Max Perera, P.Eng., for a second term as an LGA Councillor, effective April 10, 2000. Perera was first appointed to Council in April 1997.

Members' Forum to get an overhaul

The Members' Forum portion of PEO's website is to get an overhaul, aimed at

making it more user friendly, improving its functions and making it more easily customizable. Council passed a motion directing the Communications Committee to make the Members' Forum into a "convenient, acceptable, useful and working facility" for the benefit of members. The motion was moved by Councillors Denis Dixon, P.Eng., and Greg Wowchuk, P.Eng.

The word "useful" was included in the list of desired forum attributes at the request of Councillor Colin Cantlie, P.Eng., to enable the Communications Committee to consider whether the forum is meeting its intended purpose as a vehicle for communication and debate on professional issues among members. The committee is also expected to consider concerns about the forum raised by Councillors and other members, and report back to Council with a plan for addressing them later this year.

Advisory Committee on Committees' mandate under review

The Advisory Committee on Committees' (ACC) mandate is under review, with some Councillors calling for it to be expanded to increase the effectiveness of PEO committees and better inform Council of committee activities. Currently, the ACC's role is to solicit recommendations for committee membership from staff and members, and present the annual slate of committees to Council for approval. It also assists Council in forming new committees and task forces throughout the year.

Council discussed a motion brought by Councillors Dick Braddock, P.Eng., and President-elect Gordon Sterling, P.Eng., to expand the ACC's mandate to include monitoring activities of commit-

Taking the oath of office



New Councillors starting their terms at the AGM take their oath of office during the business meeting on April 15. Used for the first time at PEO's 2000 AGM, the new oath requires Councillors to pledge to discharge their duties to the best of their abilities. From left to right are: David Adams, P.Eng., George Comrie, P.Eng., Anthony Warner, P.Eng., Colin Cantlie, P.Eng., and Daniela Iliescu, P.Eng.

tees and task forces to assist them in solving problems and to keep Council informed of the work of committees with no Councillor members to report to Council on their behalf. The motion is meant to address the perceived lack of clear reporting procedures for committees and to help them deal with such problems as increased workloads, lack of funding and understanding of Council's objectives, and overlapping terms of reference.

Braddock explained that the motion arose from a proposal made by President Peter DeVita, P.Eng., to cluster PEO committees, with each cluster overseen by a "presider" who would report on its activities. He said the ACC is uncomfortable with the "presider" concept, because it might create the impression that presiders would have the authority to override the decisions of committee chairs. However, the ACC believes the idea of grouping common committees has merit, and that it may be in the best position to facilitate the activities of committee clusters because of its role.

Some Councillors said they supported the motion, because, given the large number of PEO committees, taking such a step would help Council keep better track of committee work and avoid duplication of effort.

Several Councillors expressed opposition, saying that it's Council's role to audit the effectiveness of committees and task forces. "I don't think this is a very businesslike motion," said Councillor David Adams, P.Eng. "We should simply instruct committees to bring problems to Council's attention." Councillor Max Perera, P.Eng., said that, as an ACC member, he is concerned about "adding a level of redundancy to committees" and that committee members will think the ACC is "looking over their shoulders."

Some Councillors also noted that it might be inappropriate for the ACC to monitor the activities of regulatory committees, for which the Registrar has direct statutory responsibility, such as the Experience Requirements and Academic Requirements committees.

Given the level of concern over the motion, Council decided to table it until its June meeting to enable the movers to reword it, taking into account the discussion.

2000 election and referendum

Council passed a motion to receive the report of the returning officers for the 2000 election and advocacy referendum.

Council also welcomed back a familiar face as former West Central Region Councillor and 1998-99 Vice President Danny Chui, P.Eng., stepped in to fill the second year of the two-year term of former West Central Region Councillor David Kempster, P.Eng. Kempster resigned from Council effective April 15, to move to Ottawa in early May. At its March 24 meeting, Council appointed Chui to replace Kempster for the remainder of Kempster's term. Chui was the runner-up candidate for the West Central Region Councillor position in the 2000 election, receiving 1434 votes.

