



Minutes

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE

Business Meeting of February 20, 2014

PRESENT:

Members:

Barna Szabados, Chair
Sanjeev Bhole
Judith Dimitriu
Robert (Bob) Dony
Waguhi ElMaraghy
Amir Fam

Ross Judd
Magdi Mohareb
Leila Notash
Shamim Sheikh
Ramesh Subramanian
Seimer Tsang

Staff:

Michael Price, Deputy Registrar
Anna Carinci Lio Pauline Lebel
Moody Farag Evelyn Nasho
Esther Kim Irene Zdan

Absent:

Stelian George-Cosh, Vice-Chair
Roydon Fraser
Meilan Liu
George Nakhla
Suresh Neethirajan
Remon Pop-Iliev

Amin Rizkalla
Heather Sheardown
Juri Silmberg
Jacqueline Stagner
John Yeow
Gosha Zywno

Guests:

Ravi Gupta Santosh Gupta

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:30 a.m.

The Chair presented Sanjeev Bhole with a Fellowship of Engineers Canada (FEC) pin to recognize 10 years of service to the engineering profession.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION:

It was **moved** by Bob Dony and **seconded** by Ross Judd that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of the December 6, 2013 Business Meeting and the January 17, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

It was **moved** by Ross Judd and **seconded** by Ramesh Subramanian that the minutes of the December 6, 2013 Business Meeting be approved.

CARRIED

MOTION:

It was **moved** by Seimer Tsang and **seconded** by Ramesh Subramanian that the minutes of the January 17, 2014 Regular Meeting be approved.

CARRIED

4. Matter(s) Arising from the Minutes

Minutes of the January 17, 2014 Regular Meeting

Under Item 7.4 *Distance Education – Introduced by Seimer Tsang*, Bob Dony stated that the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba (APEGM) is accepting the University of North Dakota's distance education-based engineering program because it is ABET-accredited. This will probably create a discussion at the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) of whether or not the CEAB will start accepting more distance education components, or at what point it will accept distance education as an entire degree. The Chair remarked that PEO should advise the CEAB that this is not acceptable to PEO. The Chair and Bob Dony agreed to discuss this matter further off-line.

5. Chair's Report

There was no report by the Chair.

6. Deputy Registrar's Report

The Deputy Registrar reported that:

- At its last Council meeting, PEO appointed Roydon Fraser as its representative on the Canadian Engineering Qualifications Board (CEQB) effective July 1, 2014. This appointment is expected to be ratified at the next Engineers Canada Board Meeting. Dr. Fraser will be replacing Juri Silmberg who has been PEO's representative for three 3-year terms, which is the maximum time that an individual is allowed by Engineers Canada to sit on the CEQB. Bob Dunn still continues to serve on the CEQB. Bob Dony is now PEO's representative on the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board, replacing James Lee.
- One of PEO's representatives on the Engineers Canada Board of Directors gave an update on Engineers Canada activities at the last PEO Council meeting, including a document from Engineers Canada entitled *Big Picture Thinking*. A motion was passed by Council to have this document forwarded to four committees to provide their comments and then the comments would be forwarded to PEO's Engineers Canada Director, Phil Maka. One of the committees that the document was to be forwarded to is the ARC and the Deputy Registrar stated that he would distribute it by email after the meeting. The Deputy Registrar requested that comments be forwarded before PEO's Council Meeting in April to Phil Maka.

A discussion ensued among the committee members regarding the *Big Picture Thinking* document. Bob Dony agreed to coordinate the comments of the ARC, ERC and the Legislation Committee on the *Big Picture Thinking* document and prepare a draft joint report from all three committees.

- The competency-based assessment of engineering work experience project from Engineers Canada is continuing. Engineers Canada is seeking funding from the federal government for the next phase by working on developing a finalized version of the funding document, *The Case for Change*. Once that document has been finalized, the Deputy Registrar will forward it to the ARC and ERC for feedback. The document is focused on assessments switching from the current paper-based five criteria to seven competencies, and moving to an online system for submission and review.
- Engineers Canada has established an Admissions Advisory Board and there will be a meeting on February 21, 2014 via teleconference, in which the Deputy Registrar will be participating.
- The Association of Professional Engineers and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGA) is appealing the decision of the Alberta Human Rights Tribunal; the decision criticized not only the assignment of exams to confirm an applicant's education, but the decision also criticized the Professional Practice Examination (PPE) which all applicants are required to pass. The subject

applicant actually failed the PPE two times and “no showed” once and the decision said that APEGA should come up with an alternative for this applicant instead of requiring him to pass the PPE. The decision criticized APEGA for assigning the Fundamental Examination to all its applicants and stated that applicants should be treated individually. The decision also stated that applicants should be interviewed and not be assessed strictly on a paper basis – which bodes well for the ERC.

- In 2013, PEO received 6,238 applications for licensure which is the highest level since 1996, which was when PEO switched from two years to three years of experience. The increase in the number of applications in 2013 is due to the initial proclamation of the repeal of the industrial exception. This is an increase of approximately 36% over the previous year, and 2012 had the highest number of applications since 1998. The applicant breakdown for 2013 was 55% who were graduates of Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) programs and 45% who were graduates of non-CEAB programs, of which almost 2,000 were part of the Financial Credit Program, either through a compliance plan under the industrial exception or as a recent university graduate or immigrant. The ERC has not seen the full impact of the applications yet because the actual number of interviews was down in 2013 by 3%. The ERC had 1,011 interviews in 2013. The ARC had an increase of 39% in assessments last year; the ARC completed 2,593 assessments compared to 1,868 the previous year.

7. Endorsements

7.1 Reading Assignment of Technical Reports/Synopses

A technical synopsis in the field of Mechanical Engineering entitled, *Development of an Assisted Close Armrest to Automotive Industry*, was submitted at the December 6, 2013 ARC Business Meeting. Ross Judd read this synopsis and stated that before he would be willing to read the report, the applicant should provide a letter from his supervisor advising that his company agrees to have the private information contained in the report revealed to the public at large. The applicant has advised that the project had been given to the company that he worked for, and he had been given the authority to investigate and permission to write about it. Therefore, Dr. Judd has agreed to read this report when it is received.

7.2 Issues Arising from ARC/Deputy Registrar Recommendations

Three files were pulled out from the Deputy Registrar's Appendix of January 2014 and all three files are on the same issue. These are all new applications where the applicants had applied before. In their previous applications, they were assigned Confirmatory Examination Programs (CEP), referred to the ERC, were interviewed five to 10 years ago and their programs stood following their interviews. The applicants did not attempt any exams and their applications were closed. The question now is whether these applicants, under their new applications, should be referred to the ERC again to determine whether the new experience gained provides basis to waive the CEP. This issue is on the agenda and will be discussed under Item 9.4 *ERC Interview Appeals*.

7.3 Issues Arising from ERC Recommendations for Applicants Referred by ARC

There were no issues arising from ERC Recommendations for Applicants Referred by ARC.

8. Information Item(s)

8.1 Statistical Information: December 2013 PPE Results

A summary of the December 2013 PPE results was distributed and Anna Carinci Lio stated that the results are in keeping with past sittings. The passing rate for the PPE sitting was 85%. One applicant failed a fourth time. If that applicant wants to pursue licensure, the applicant would have to reapply.

9. Procedural and Related Matter(s)

9.1 LPTF Update

There was nothing new to report on this item.

9.2 Legislation Committee Update

Bob Dony reported that there has been some correspondence with the Attorney General's Office and PEO is waiting for feedback with respect to the Licensed Engineering Technologist; PEO would like confirmation that a licence can be revoked if the individual is no longer a fee-paying OACETT member. The Legislation Committee is preparing a document to be presented to Council outlining a list of about nine very focused issues that are still outstanding.

9.3 Red Book Subcommittee

The Chair stated that progress was being made on the revisions to the Red Book but there was nothing specific to report at this time.

9.4 ERC Interview Appeals

A Memorandum from Moody Samuel Farag entitled, "Referral to ERC for interview in case of a new reapplication," dated February 20, 2014 and attached hereto as Attachment "A" was distributed.

A document entitled, *Conditions for the Referral to ERC for an Interview for the 2nd and 3rd Time [Updated]*, which was prepared by Seimer Tsang, was distributed for discussion. A motion and background information had been posted on the eChat Forum for a round of discussion. From the feedback, the following revised motion was proposed for the ARC's consideration and decision:

"Motion:

The ARC will not consider further experiential knowledge when referring applicants to the ERC for a second interview assessment. The only way for an applicant to have access to a further ERC interview is to gain further formal education, such as acquiring engineering courses from an accredited Canadian Institution, an appropriate bachelor's degree or equivalent, or a master degree and/or a Ph.D. degree with appropriate engineering graduate courses."

Considerable discussion took place on this issue, however, no consensus was reached among the Committee members.

The Chair stated that a vote on the motion was not going to take place at this time because it was felt that the motion was too restrictive. Further discussion was necessary, electronically first, and then, whenever possible, to come back with a better solution. He instructed Seimer Tsang to first define the problem on the eChat Forum, make sure that everybody understands the problem that the ARC wants to solve, and then work from there to come up with a solution.

The Deputy Registrar stated that direction was necessary for the interim with respect to the three files that were held back from the previous month's endorsements. Since the three files were in the electrical discipline, the Chair agreed to review the files and make a decision as to whether to refer them to the ERC or not.

9.5 ARC Consideration of George Comrie's Briefing Note

This item was deferred.

10. New Procedural Matter(s) for Discussion

There were no new procedural matter(s) for discussion.

11. Other Business

The Deputy Registrar stated that the June 20, 2014 ARC Business Meeting would need to be rescheduled because that is the date of the Council Workshop. The proposed new date is June 27, 2014.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:40 p.m.