



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
January 20, 2016
APPROVED**

January 20, 2016

Attendance:

Dr. Thomas-A. Noël, President	Dr. Richard Kniaziew
Dr. Pooya Hemami, Vice President	Mr. Emad Hussain
Ms. Irene Moore, Treasurer	Dr. Dino Mastronardi
Dr. Linda Chan	Ms. Luisa Morrone
Dr. Bill Chisholm	Dr. Areef Nurani
Mr. Francis Christopher	Dr. Patrick Quaid
Ms. Shoshana Gladstone	Mr. Ira Teich
Dr. Patricia Hrynchak	Dr. Marta Witer

Regrets:

Mr. John Van Bastelaar

Staff:

Dr. Paula Garshowitz, Registrar	Mr. David Whitton
Ms. Hanan Jibry	Dr. David Wilkinson
Ms. Mina Kavanagh	Ms. Bonny Wong

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1. Call to Order: Dr. Noël called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Noël welcomed everyone to the meeting.

a. Conflicts of Interest: Dr. Noël asked Council members if anyone had a conflict of interest with any item on the day's agenda; no conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Adoption of the Agenda: A draft agenda was circulated before the meeting. The following items were added to the agenda:

- Approval of in-camera minutes of the meeting of September 30 2015

Moved by Mr. Christopher and seconded by Dr. Quaid **to adopt the agenda as amended.**

Motion carried

15 On behalf of Council, Dr. Noël presented certificates of recognition to two departing Council members
16 for their outstanding contributions to public protection. Mr. Francis Christopher and Mr. Emad Hussain
17 have come to the end of their ten-year terms.

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19 **3. Election of Officers and Executive Committee:** A call for nominations had been sent previous to the
20 meeting. Councillors interested in running for a position on Executive had been asked to indicate their
21 intention, in writing, to the Registrar by January 15. College Registrar Dr. Paula Garshowitz announced
22 that the three College officers' positions and the four member positions were acclaimed.

23

24 **Officers:**

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26 Dr. Thomas-A. Noël, President

27 Dr. Pooya Hemami, Vice President

28 Ms. Irene Moore, Treasurer

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30 **Executive Committee members-at-large:**

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32 Dr. Richard Kniaziew

33 Dr. Patrick Quaid

34 Mr. Ira Teich

35 Mr. John Van Bastelaar

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37 Dr. Noël welcomed to Council two new members, Dr. Linda Chan and Dr. Patricia Hrynychak, and one
38 returning, Dr. Richard Kniaziew.

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40 **4. Orientation for Council Members:** Dr. Garshowitz delivered a presentation outlining the duties of the
41 College and Council, the organization of the College, confidentiality and indemnity, the process by which
42 Council meetings are conducted, and the use of the consent agenda.

43 **5. Presentation by Dr. Ruth Gallop: "Sexual Abuse Prevention – The Limits of Relationship":** Council
44 heard a presentation from Dr. Ruth Gallop, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto, on sexual
45 abuse prevention and the nature of the doctor–patient relationship. Dr. Gallop spoke about sexual
46 abuse provisions in the *Regulated Health Professions Act* (RHPA) and the responsibility of the College
47 and its members to protect the public from harm. Council learned more about the prevalence of sexual
48 abuse in the health care community, and the types of behaviours and boundary violations that may
49 constitute abuse. Dr. Gallop presented clinical vignettes that illustrated different types of boundary
50 crossings and abuses of power.

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52 **6. Adoption of the Consent Agenda:** A draft consent agenda was circulated before the meeting. Three
53 items were removed for further discussion: reports from ICRC, Registration, and EHCO.

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55 Moved by Dr. Hemami and seconded by Mr. Hussain **to adopt the consent agenda.**

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Motion carried

57 **Items removed from the consent agenda**

58 a) Inquiries, Complaints and Reports: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Council
59 discussed compliance issues related to independent contractor provisions.

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61 **Action Item:** Executive Committee to reflect on the issue and bring recommendations to Council in April.

- 62 b) Registration: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Council considered the College's
63 role in maintaining entry-to-practice standards. There was a brief discussion of the
64 evaluating examination developed by Touchstone Institute.
65 c) EHCO: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Council discussed the College's
66 participation in EHCO and its transition to observer status.

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68 **IN CAMERA SESSION**

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70 Moved by Dr. Hemami and seconded by Mr. Christopher **to have the meeting go in camera.**

71 **Motion carried**

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73 *Guests left the meeting.*

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75 **In camera minutes of the meeting of September 30, 2015 and teleconference of December 16, 2015:**

76 Suggestions were made for grammar and punctuation.

77

78 Moved by Ms. Morrone and seconded by Ms. Moore **to approve in camera minutes of the meeting of**
79 **September 30, 2015 and teleconference of December 16, 2015, as amended.**

80 **Motion carried**

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82 Moved by Dr. Nurani and seconded by Dr. Chan **to leave the in camera session.**

83 **Motion carried**

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85 *Guests returned to the meeting.*

86

87 **6. Financial Matters/Treasurer's Report:**

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89 **a. Treasurer's Report:** College Treasurer Ms. Irene Moore presented the report.

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91 **b. Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Report – to October 31, 2015:** The unaudited income
92 and expense (I&E) report through October 31, 2015 reflects an operating surplus of \$287,148.

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94 **c. Investment Account Update:** On January 13, Ms. Moore was part of a teleconference with the
95 College's investment advisor, Cumberland Wealth Management, where they discussed the current
96 challenging market conditions and reviewed the College's outlook and portfolio positioning.

97 **d. Draft 2016 Budget:** The 2016 budget was presented to Council. The projected income and expenses
98 are based on last year's trends (of the reported year to date) as well as anticipated activity, particularly
99 at the committee level, for the coming year. Council will be asked to approve any variance required
100 during the year as a result of any unanticipated expenses. No membership fee increase is being
101 considered at this time.

102 Moved by Ms. Moore and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew **to approve the 2016 budget as presented.**

103 **Motion carried**

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8. Motions Brought Forward From Committees:

a. Executive Committee: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The Committee proposed financial support of up to \$20,000 toward developing a national database that would share information among regulators about failed applicants and members. If approved, the Federation of Optometric Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FORAC) would administer the database. The creation of this shared resource would enhance the College's ability to protect the public from applicants who may be less than forthcoming on their applications about prior findings in other provinces or territories.

Moved by Mr. Teich and seconded by Dr. Chisholm **to approve financial support of up to \$20,000 for the development of a national FORAC database for shared information about failed applicants and members.**

Motion carried

b. Quality Assurance Committee

i. Clinical Practice Panel (CPP): A report was circulated prior to the meeting. At Council's request, the Panel reviewed literature related to strabismus surgery, including references provided by ophthalmology. Consequent revisions to the section "Referrals for Strabismus Surgery" under Clinical Guidelines provide optometrists with evidenced-based guidelines for patient counselling when referring patients for strabismus surgery. The document was reviewed for consistency with similar sections of other OPR guidelines.

Moved by Dr. Nurani and seconded by Mr. Teich **to approve amendments to OPR 6.7 Binocular Vision Assessment and Therapy.**

Motion carried

Council discussed proposed amendments to the *Optometry Act*, Designated Drugs and Standards of Practice Regulation under the *Optometry Act*, and the Controlled Acts Regulation, under the RHPA. The proposals would give optometrists the authority to prescribe all topical and oral drugs that are within the scope of practice of the profession. They would also allow optometrists to remove superficial foreign bodies from below the surface of the cornea, to dispense drugs for the sole purpose of trialling a therapy, and to specify diagnostic ultrasound as a prescribed form of energy for the performance of corneal pachymetry or ocular ultrasonography.

Moved by Dr. Quaid and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew **to approve amendments to the *Optometry Act*, the Designated Drugs Regulation (112/11), and the Controlled Acts Regulation (107/96) for circulation to members and stakeholders for consultation.**

Recorded vote on the main motion:

Councillors in favour of the motion

Dr. Linda Chan
Dr. Bill Chisholm
Mr. Francis Christopher

Councillors against the motion

None

150 Ms. Shoshana Gladstone
151 Dr. Pooya Hemami
152 Dr. Patricia Hrynchak
153 Mr. Emad Hussain
154 Dr. Richard Kniaziew
155 Dr. Dino Mastronardi
156 Ms. Irene Moore
157 Ms. Luisa Morrone
158 Dr. Thomas-A. Noël
159 Dr. Areef Nurani
160 Dr. Patrick Quaid
161 Mr. Ira Teich
162 Dr. Marta Witer

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Motion carried

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166 **iii. Registration Committee:** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. At the September Council
167 meeting, the Committee proposed a new policy that would clarify the process by which members can
168 change their registration status from practising to non-practising, or vice-versa, for fixed or indefinite
169 periods of time. The proposed policy was circulated for 60 days to members and stakeholders, after
170 which all comments were reviewed. Council discussed aspects of the policy such as fee amounts and
171 how to maintain standards of practice.

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173 Moved by Dr. Mastronardi and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew **to approve the policy for non-practising**
174 **members returning to practice.**

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Motion carried

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177 **Action Item:** Registration Committee will consider reduced fees for non-practising members and bring
178 its recommendation to the next Council meeting.

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180 **9. Internet Dispensing Update:** Dr. Noël informed Council that FORAC will attend the Optometric
181 Leaders' Forum, where he will take part in a panel presentation about Internet dispensing.

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183 **10. Report on Optometry Review Committee and Motion to Amend Related By-laws:** A report was
184 circulated prior to the meeting. Council learned that the Ontario government, in an amendment to the
185 *Health Insurance Act*, has dissolved practitioner review committees, including the Optometry Review
186 Committee. The ORC had been inactive for a number of years, with no new referrals after 2003.
187 References to the ORC have been removed from the website, but any changes to the by-laws require
188 Council approval.

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190 **Action Item:** Staff to share with College members the mechanisms available to the General Manager of
191 OHIP to review optometrists' claims and billings in the absence of the practitioner review committees.

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193 Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Ms. Moore **to remove Section 14.09 Optometry Review**
194 **Committee from the College by-laws.**

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Motion carried

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197 **11. Committee Composition for 2016:** Dr. Garshowitz presented the proposed statutory and ad hoc
198 committee chairs and members for 2016.

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200 Moved by Dr. Quaid and seconded by Mr. Christopher **to approve the proposed College committee**
201 **composition as presented.**

Motion carried

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204 Moved by Mr. Hussain and seconded by Dr. Witer **to approve the proposed chairs of College**
205 **committees as presented.**

Motion carried

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208 **12. Regulation Updates:**
209 **a. Spousal Exemption Sexual Abuse Provisions:** The College has learned from the Ministry of Health and
210 Long-Term Care that these provisions are on hold with the Ministry pending the release of the report of
211 the Sexual Abuse Task Force.

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213 **b. QA Regulation Amendments:** The new regulation has been submitted to the Ministry of Health and
214 Long-Term Care, and will be reviewed in due course.

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216 **c. Designated Drugs Regulation:** Amendments to add new drugs to the Schedule have been submitted
217 to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

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219 **13. Dates of Upcoming Council Meetings:** The next Council meeting has been scheduled for Friday, April
220 15, 2016. The following meeting is set for Monday, June 20, 2016.

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222 **Action Item:** Staff to send a survey to Council members about an alternative April meeting date.

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224 **14. Adjournment:** Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Quaid **to adjourn the meeting at 3:05**
225 **p.m.**

Motion carried

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