



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

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**June 20, 2016**

**Attendance:**

Dr. Thomas-A. Noël, President  
Dr. Pooya Hemami, Vice President  
Ms. Irene Moore, Treasurer  
Dr. Linda Chan  
Dr. Bill Chisholm  
Ms. Shoshana Gladstone  
Dr. Patricia Hrynchak  
Ms. Laila Kanji  
Dr. Richard Kniaziew

Dr. Dino Mastronardi  
Ms. Luisa Morrone  
Dr. Areef Nurani  
Dr. Patrick Quaid  
Mr. Brian Rivait  
Mr. Ira Teich  
Mr. John Van Bastelaar  
Dr. Marta Witer

**Staff:**

Dr. Paula Garshowitz, Registrar  
Ms. Hanan Jibry  
Ms. Mina Kavanagh

Mr. David Whitton  
Dr. David Wilkinson  
Ms. Bonny Wong

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**1. Call to Order:** Dr. Noël called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Dr. Noël welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On behalf of Council, Dr. Noël welcomed back a public Council member, Mr. Ira Teich, whose term has been extended four months.

**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.

Moved by Ms. Morrone and seconded by Dr. Quaid **to adopt the agenda.**

**Motion carried**

**3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda:** A draft consent agenda was circulated before the meeting. Four items were removed for further discussion: reports from Executive; Quality Assurance; Inquiries, Complaints and Reports; and Registration.

Moved by Dr. Chisholm and seconded by Ms. Moore **to adopt the consent agenda.**

**Motion carried**

22 **Items removed from the consent agenda**

- 23 a) Executive: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Attached to it was May 10, 2016  
24 correspondence from CEO-ECO regarding "Matters concerning Governance Roles and  
25 Responsibilities, Board Elections and Communications of CEO-ECO." Council discussed issues  
26 addressed in the letter concerning the entry-to-practice exam, CEO-ECO's structure and  
27 processes, and the role of regulators. Executive was asked to have a general discussion  
28 regarding terminology used by members in advertising services at its next meeting.
- 29 b) Quality Assurance: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. After reviewing SRA and  
30 CRA results from the 2012–2014 CE audit, Council asked questions about non-payment of  
31 dues and compliance with independent contractor provisions.
- 32 c) Inquiries, Complaints and Reports: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Council  
33 considered the benefits of clarifying allegations related to drug prescriptions.
- 34 d) Registration: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. In April, Touchstone Institute  
35 administered the 2016 evaluating exam for international applicants. Council discussed the  
36 results of the exam and prerequisites for applying to challenge it.

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38 **4. Financial Matters/Treasurer's Report:**

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

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42 **b. Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Report – to March 31, 2016:** The unaudited income and  
43 expense (I&E) report through March 31, 2016 reflects an operating surplus of \$133,423. Income and  
44 expenses to date were well within budget.

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46 **5. Motions Brought Forward From Committees:**

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48 **a. Executive:** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The College has been informed that Dr.  
49 Catherine Chiarelli is stepping down from the Quality Assurance Committee. When a vacancy is created  
50 in the middle of a Council year, the Executive Committee may either leave the position empty or appoint  
51 a new committee member to fill the vacancy. Executive agreed that the Quality Assurance has a  
52 significant workload and requires a full complement of members and so has appointed Dr. Karin  
53 Schellenberg to the Quality Assurance Panel for the remainder of the current Council year.

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55 Moved by Dr. Hemami and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew **to ratify the approval by the Executive Committee**  
56 **of the appointment of Dr. Karin Schellenberg to the Quality Assurance Panel (QAP) of the Quality**  
57 **Assurance Committee for the remainder of 2016.**

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**Motion carried**

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60 **b. Registration:** At its April 2016 meeting, Council approved circulation of amendments to the  
61 Registration Regulation that would add a "good character" requirement and also allow members to  
62 apply for non-practising status. In preparing the circulation, an issue arose about whether to allow new  
63 registrants to hold initial registration as non-practising. It was decided that members would need 12  
64 consecutive months practising in Ontario before they become eligible for non-practising status. Council  
65 was asked to rescind April's previous motion and approve a further amendment to the already approved  
66 changes.

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68 Moved by Mr. Van Bastelaar and seconded by Dr. Quaid **to amend the motion previously approved by**  
69 **Council at the April 20, 2016, Council meeting (associated with item 6.b.iii. of the draft meeting**  
70 **minutes).**

71 **Motion carried**

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73 Moved by Mr. Van Bastelaar and seconded by Dr. Witer **to approve the enclosed amended draft of the**  
74 **proposed amendments to the Registration Regulation (O.Reg. 837/93) under the *Optometry Act,***  
75 **1991.**

76 **Motion carried**

77 **Recorded vote: All councillors present at the meeting voted in favour of the motion**

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79 **c. Quality Assurance Committee**

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81 **i. Clinical Practice Panel (CPP):** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. At its January meeting,  
82 Council approved circulation of proposed amendments to the *Optometry Act*, Designated Drugs and  
83 Standards of Practice Regulation, and Controlled Acts. These amendments would give optometrists the  
84 authority to prescribe all topical and oral drugs that are within the scope of practice of the profession,  
85 which are Health Canada approved. They would also allow optometrists to remove superficial foreign  
86 bodies from below the surface of the cornea, to dispense drugs for the sole purpose of trialling a  
87 therapy, and to specify diagnostic ultrasound as a prescribed form of energy for the performance of  
88 corneal pachymetry or ocular ultrasonography.

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90 The proposals were circulated; after reviewing comments from members and stakeholders, CPP  
91 recommended two changes to the Designated Drugs Regulation proposal: one prohibiting the sale of  
92 drug samples dispensed to patients and the other relating to the use or prescribing of oral steroids.

93

94 OPR 7.14 Removal of Foreign Bodies from the Cornea is newly drafted. Circulating this document will  
95 inform members and stakeholders regarding the standards of practice that will be published when the  
96 amendment to the *Optometry Act* is approved.

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98 Moved by Dr. Hrynychak and seconded by Dr. Nurani **to approve recirculation of the proposed**  
99 **amendments to the *Optometry Act*, Designated Drugs Regulation, and Controlled Acts, together with**  
100 **OPR 7.14 Removal of Foreign Bodies from the Cornea, for member and stakeholder consultation.**

101 **Motion carried**

102 **Recorded vote: All councillors present at the meeting voted in favour of the motion**

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104 **ii. Quality Assurance Panel (QAP):** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. After several discussions  
105 between the College and the School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of Waterloo (WOVS),  
106 the QAP asked a collaborative working group to develop a new process that would allow the Quality  
107 Assurance Committee to randomly assess faculty members of WOVS, who until recently had been  
108 exempt. The new process would include updated rules for short record assessment and complete record  
109 assessment, which would allow more appropriate evaluations of members with focused areas of  
110 practice. The process should be in place for 2017; for the time being, it would apply only to full-time  
111 employees of ACOE-accredited schools. It is the goal of QAP eventually to apply the same (or similar)  
112 process to any focused-area practitioner, regardless of location of practice.

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114 Moved by Mr. Van Bastelaar and seconded by Mr. Rivait **to approve a new random practice assessment**  
115 **process for members with focused areas of practice. This new process would apply only to full-time**  
116 **employees of ACOE-accredited schools initially, and would include revised SRA/CRA protocols.**

117 **Motion carried**  
118

119 **d. Patient Relations:** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The Committee has drafted an  
120 educational document for the public titled “What to Expect During an Optometric Exam – Rights and  
121 Responsibilities.” The document outlines acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in the patient–  
122 practitioner relationship. Under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the patient relations program  
123 must include measures for preventing and dealing with sexual abuse of patients, such as: educational  
124 requirements for members, guidelines for the conduct of members with their patients, and the  
125 provision of information to the public.  
126

127 Moved by Ms. Moore and seconded by Dr. Witer **to approve the draft document “What to Expect**  
128 **During an Optometric Exam – Rights and Responsibilities.”**  
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130 Council discussed the document, offering suggestions for amendments. It was decided that the  
131 document go back to the Committee for redrafting.  
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**Motion tabled to the next meeting**  
133

#### 134 **6. Regulation Updates:**

135 **a. Spousal Exemption to MOHLTC:** These provisions are on hold with the Ministry of Health and Long-  
136 Term Care pending the release of the report of the Sexual Abuse Task Force.  
137

138 **b. QA Regulation:** The new regulation has been submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term  
139 Care; the College has yet to hear any feedback.  
140

141 **c. Designated Drugs Regulation:** Amendments to add new drugs to the Schedule have been submitted  
142 to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Council discussed issues involving the Ministry  
143 submissions; as a consequence of these discussions it struck an ad hoc committee to investigate the  
144 possibility of creating a government relations committee within the College. Members of the ad hoc  
145 committee are: Ms. Shoshana Gladstone; Ms. Laila Kanji; Ms. Irene Moore; Mr. Brian Rivait; Mr. Ira  
146 Teich; and Dr. Marta Witer.  
147

148 **7. Governance Training (Video):** Council watched educational videos produced by the Federation of  
149 Health Regulatory Colleges of Ontario (FHRCO) on accountability and on making regulations, by-laws,  
150 standards, and guidelines.  
151

#### 152 **8. Correspondence:**

153 **a. Report to ARBO House of Delegates 2016:** Council read a report from Dr. Garshowitz outlining the  
154 College’s processes and activities. The report was prepared in advance of the ARBO Annual Meeting in  
155 Boston, MA on June 27–28, 2016. Dr. Noël, Dr. Hemami and Dr. Garshowitz will be attending the  
156 meeting, where they will hear updates on North American health regulation. Dr. Garshowitz sits on two  
157 ARBO committees.  
158

159 **b. Appointment of new public member Ms. Laila Kanji:** The Lieutenant Governor in Council has  
160 appointed Ms. Laila Kanji as a member of College Council for a period of three years, commencing  
161 February 24, 2016.

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163 **c. Reappointment of Mr. Ira Teich:** The Lieutenant Governor in Council has reappointed Mr. Ira Teich as  
164 a member of College Council for a period of four months, commencing May 30, 2016.

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166 **d. Email response to the Transparency Working Group (TWG):** Dr. Garshowitz drafted a letter to Ms.  
167 Rachel Starr at MOHLTC in response to her request for any useful templates, best practices, or  
168 successful experiences that she was prepared to share with the Ministry's Transparency Working Group  
169 regarding public engagement. Dr. Garshowitz offered a summary of successful public engagement  
170 experiences that the College has engaged in either on its own or in partnership with other regulators.

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172 **9. Dates of Upcoming Council Meetings:** The next Council meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday,  
173 September 21, 2016. The following meetings are set for Monday, January 16, 2017, Thursday, April 6,  
174 2017, and Thursday, June 22, 2017.

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176 **10. Adjournment:** Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Chisholm **to adjourn the meeting at 1:40**  
177 **p.m.**

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**Motion carried**