



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
September 21, 2016
Approved**

September 21, 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. John Van Bastelaar
Dr. Marta Witer

Absent:

Ms. Maureen Chesney, Mr. Ira Teich

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 9:06 a.m. Dr. Noël welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Council Vice-President Dr. Pooya Hemami presented a certificate of recognition to outgoing President Dr. Thomas-A. Noël, who will be finishing his term in January after nine years of service. The College is grateful for his outstanding contributions to public protection.

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 P. Quaid and seconded by Mr. Rivait **to adopt the agenda.**

Motion carried

3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda: A draft consent agenda was circulated before the meeting. Five items were removed for further discussion: the minutes of the June 20, 2016 Council meeting and reports from Quality Assurance; Inquiries, Complaints and Reports; Registration; and Discipline.

21 Moved by Dr. Quaid and seconded by Dr. Chisholm **to adopt the consent agenda.**

22 **Motion carried**

23 **Items removed from the consent agenda**

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25 a) June 20, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of June 20, 2016 were
26 included in the briefing book. Minor typographical errors were corrected.

27 b) Quality Assurance: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Council discussed issues
28 related to a revised random assessment process and the verification of members' CE hours.

29 c) Inquiries, Complaints and Reports: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Council
30 considered how to classify and report on certain allegations, and reflected on the process by
31 which they are classified.

32 d) Registration: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Earlier in September, the Ontario
33 Association of Optometrists (OAO) wrote a letter to the College expressing its support for
34 the accreditation of the International Optometric Bridging Program (IOBP). Council
35 discussed issues surrounding bridging, accreditation, and stakeholder engagement.

36 e) Discipline: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. A question was raised about two
37 referral summaries in the briefing book; it was explained that expanded information could
38 be found on the College website.

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

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42 **a. Treasurer's Report:** College Treasurer Ms. Irene Moore presented the report. The College is operating
43 well within budget (75%) both in committee and administrative expenses and shows a healthy net result
44 of \$368,732. It is anticipated that upcoming Discipline hearings as well as legal expenses for various
45 committees will bring the budget more in line with yearly projections.

46 The Executive Committee continues to carefully monitor the activity and performance of the investment
47 account. This ensures that the College's investment policy is followed and the account performs within
48 expectations given current market conditions.

49 **b. Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Report – to July 31, 2016:** The unaudited income and
50 expense (I&E) report through July 31, 2016 reflects an operating surplus of \$353,351. Income and
51 expenses to date were well within budget.

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53 **c. Preliminary 2017 Budget:** This draft budget proposes to maintain the annual renewal fee at \$945 plus
54 HST. This fee has not changed since 2012. Further budget adjustments will be made as fourth quarter
55 financial information is received. These will be reflected in the final version, to be presented to Council
56 in January 2017.

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

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60 **a. Registration:** Proposed motions, including relevant background information, were circulated prior to
61 the meeting. At its June 2016 meeting, Council approved amendments to previously approved changes
62 to the Registration Regulation and College by-laws. These previous proposals were: to add a "good
63 character" provision to the Regulation, which would provide the College with more robust regulatory
64 tools when assessing new registrants; to add a non-practising status to the Regulation, which would set

65 out the process for non-practising members to return to active practice; and to reduce the annual fees
66 paid by non-practising members, bringing the College in line with other regulatory bodies.

67
68 A further amendment was proposed at this meeting to eliminate the Academic Certificate of
69 Registration, which would remove potential bias from the Regulation and enhance public protection.
70 Current active Academic Certificate holders would be exempt when the amended Regulation comes into
71 force. Council considered the consequences of eliminating the Academic Certificate, in particular the
72 impact it would have on WOVS's recruitment of research faculty.

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

77 **Motion carried**
78 **1 opposed**

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80 Moved by Mr. Van Bastelaar and seconded by Dr. Chisholm **to circulate for stakeholder and member**
81 **feedback the approved enclosed amended draft of the proposed amendments to the Registration**
82 **Regulation (O.Reg. 837/93) as amended under the *Optometry Act, 1991.***

83 **Motion carried**

84 **Recorded vote-all councilors present at the meeting voted in favour of the motion**

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86 **Action Item:** Staff will prepare the proposal for the 60-day circulation to members and stakeholders for
87 comment.

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89 **b. Quality Assurance Committee**

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91 **i. Clinical Practice Panel (CPP):** The proposed motion, including relevant background information, was
92 circulated prior to the meeting. At its June 2016 meeting, Council approved recirculation of proposed
93 amendments to the *Optometry Act*, Designated Drugs and Standards of Practice Regulation, and
94 Controlled Acts. The original proposals, circulated in January, would, if passed by government, give
95 optometrists the authority to prescribe all Health Canada-approved topical and oral drugs that are
96 within the scope of practice of the profession. They would also allow optometrists to remove superficial
97 foreign bodies from below the surface of the cornea, to dispense drugs for the sole purpose of trialling a
98 therapy, and to specify diagnostic ultrasound as a prescribed form of energy for the performance of
99 corneal pachymetry or ocular ultrasonography.

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101 The recirculated proposals made two changes to the original: one prohibiting the sale of drug samples
102 dispensed to patients and the other relating to the prescribing of oral steroids. OPR 7.14 Removal of
103 Foreign Bodies from the Cornea was new to the recirculation.

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105 The amended proposals were recirculated for 60 days to members and stakeholders, after which all
106 comments were reviewed. Council debated the timing of this submission. The College has a previous
107 proposal before the Ministry; this new one should be timed so as not to conflict with it.

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109 Moved by Dr. Nurani and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew **to approve proposed amendments to the**
110 ***Optometry Act, Designated Drugs Regulation, and Controlled Acts, for submission to the Ministry for***
111 **approval.**

112 **Motion carried**

113 **Recorded vote: All councillors present at the meeting voted in favour of the motion**
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115 **Action item:** Staff to contact the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding the status of the
116 College's previous proposal.

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118 **Action Item:** Staff will prepare the regulation amendment proposal for submission to the Ministry of
119 Health and Long-Term Care.

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121 **c. Patient Relations:** The proposed motion, including relevant background information, was circulated
122 prior to the meeting. The Committee has drafted an educational document for the public titled "What to
123 Expect During an Optometric Exam." The document outlines acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in
124 the patient-practitioner relationship. Under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the Patient Relations
125 Program must include measures for preventing and dealing with sexual abuse of patients, such as:
126 educational requirements for members, guidelines for the conduct of members with their patients, and
127 the provision of information to the public.

128
129 This document was previously presented at the June 2016 meeting. Taking into account Council's
130 feedback, the Committee redrafted it. Council considered the revised document, and learned about
131 other initiatives of the Committee, including an eLearning module and CE sessions on sexual abuse and
132 boundary violations.

133
134 Moved by Ms. Moore and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew **to approve the draft document "What to Expect**
135 **during an Optometric Exam."**

136 **Motion carried**
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138 **Action Item:** The document "What to Expect During an Optometric Exam: will be posted on the
139 College's website and sent to members in a dedicated e-mail blast.

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141 **6. Regulation Updates:**

142 **a. Spousal Exemption to MOHLTC:** These provisions have been submitted to the Ministry of Health and
143 Long-Term Care; the College has yet to hear any feedback.

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145 **b. QA Regulation:** This regulation amendment has been submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-
146 Term Care; the College has yet to hear any feedback. The QA Committee is looking at enhancing the self-
147 assessment process.

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149 **c. Designated Drugs Regulation:** Amendments to add new drugs to the Schedule have been submitted
150 to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. With new proposed amendments to Designated Drugs
151 now approved for submission, Council debated the timing of the Ministry response. The Ministry cannot
152 consider more than one submission to the same regulation at any one time.
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154 **7. Report of the Minister’s Sexual Abuse Task Force:** Earlier in September, the Ministry’s Sexual Abuse
155 Task Force released Appendix B of its report, which contained a list of 34 recommendations to
156 government and health regulators for improving the manner in which they prevent and deal with sexual
157 abuse and boundary violations, including changes to the *Regulated Health Professions Act*. Council
158 discussed the College’s anticipation of the report and the initiatives it has taken around sexual abuse
159 complaints and the prioritization of public safety.

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161 **8. Community Outreach:** Member outreach is an important part of the College’s day-to-day activities.
162 Council discussed ways to further its communications goals when disseminating College business and
163 other regulatory issues. In-person gatherings such as town hall meetings and society meetings should be
164 alternated with communications via the internet, such as web casts.

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166 **Action item:** Executive Committee to bring a plan back to Council about how to interact with members
167 both in person and electronically.

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169 **9. Recognition of Dr. Thomas Noël:** Prior to going in-camera, Dr. Hemami presented a certificate of
170 recognition to Dr. Noël to recognize his dedication to the College, including nine years on Council and
171 the past two as President. Dr. Noël’s term on Council concludes prior to the January 2017 Council
172 meeting.

173
174 **IN CAMERA SESSION (under Section 7. (2) (e) of the Health Professions Procedural Code)**

175 Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Hemami **to have the meeting go in camera.**

176 **Motion carried**

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Moved by Dr. Quaid and seconded by Mr. Rivait **to leave the in camera session.**

Motion carried

9. Dates of Upcoming Council Meetings: The next Council meeting has been scheduled for Monday, January 16, 2017. The following meetings are set for Thursday, April 6, 2017 and Thursday, June 22, 2017.

10. Adjournment: Moved by Dr. Chan and seconded by Ms. Moore **to adjourn the meeting at 3:22 p.m.**

Motion carried