

General Session Minutes
State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers
May 20, 2008

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers met in their offices at 300 Capitol Street in Charleston, WV on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. Those present for the meeting were:

Leonard J. Timms, Jr.	President
Edward L. Robinson	Vice-President
Bhajan S. Saluja	Secretary
Richard E. Plymale	Member
William E. Pierson	Member
Lesley L. Rosier-Tabor	Executive Director
Don W. Johnson	Board Investigator
Debra L. Hamilton	Legal Counsel

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

The Board meeting minutes of March 18, 2008 (both executive and general session) were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried.

The Board budget summaries for March and April 2008 were received and reviewed. A motion to approve the expenditures and purchasing card transactions was made by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosier presented the Executive Director's report and addressed all Board questions and comments. Ms. Rosier discussed her participation in recent events and presentations made by her and Mr. Johnson to various groups since the last Board meeting, in addition to reviewing the office's schedule of upcoming activities.

The absentee rate for the April 2008 FE examination is slightly higher than normal. The Board questioned if the change regarding exam re-takers who have taken the exam more than four times was the cause. No direct correlation could be determined during this first administration; however, future exams will be monitored for such a relationship.

The 2008-2009 PE license and COA renewal is in progress. All renewal notices have been mailed. Over eight hundred (800) PE's and firms renewed in the first five days of the on-line service being activated.

Mr. Pierson moved to enter into executive session, seconded by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried.

At the conclusion of the executive session, Mr. Pierson moved to enter into general session with a second by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried and the Board took the following actions:

1. Mr. Robinson moved that the Final Order in C2008-1 be modified to remove all civil penalties and administrative costs due to extenuating circumstances made known to the Board. Motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried

2. Mr. Robinson moved that complaint C2008-11 be dismissed. Motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried
3. Mr. Saluja moved that inquiry I2008-21 be received and filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried.
4. Mr. Pierson moved that inquiry I2008-25 be received and filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried.
5. Based on a motion by Mr. Saluja, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board took the following actions on Board Cases for Board Action:
 - Salam Ahmed may send in his full FE exam application for the Board's consideration. Given the current state of his home country, the CPEES evaluation is not possible, but the Board will consider his application and refund the fee if it cannot be approved. If approved for examination, he will need to sign an agreement stating he understands that he must obtain a substantially equivalent foreign degree evaluation before he can be certified as an EI and before he is permitted to sit for the Principles and Practice Exam.
 - Jenyl N. Bess' request to sit for the FE examination was approved.
 - Hari Shankar G. Aamidala's request to sit for the PE examination was approved.
 - Xiaoting Li's request to sit for the PE examination was approved.
 - Steven R. Browning's request for comity was approved.
 - Leonard R. Dolby's request for comity was approved.

Ms. Rosier was also directed to set up a meeting with the President and Executive Director of the Surveyors' Board to discuss matters of mutual interest.

President Timms updated the Board on his NCEES activities:

- For the first time, ABET allowed a presentation on the BS+30 proposal. ABET has lifted the dual accreditation prohibition and passed the M-ABET proposal allowing for ABET accreditation of both BS and Master's degrees.
- NCEES is setting up a \$6.2M reserve to handle examination breaches.
- There have been several ADA related issues during examinations. (Ms. Rosier stated that ELSSES handles our ADA requests and is responsible for compliance.)
- NCEES revised the term of the Treasurer to be a maximum of two complete terms to address a problem on how to handle filling a vacancy.
- Nevada is allowing engineers to sit for the PE examination upon graduation although they do not become licensed as PEs until they have met the experience requirements.
- The use of "engineer" on business cards continues to be an issue with several Boards and will likely come before the Council at the Annual Meeting.

- The BS+30, computer-based testing and practice examination proposals will be on the non-consent agenda for consideration at the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis.
- Due to several Boards having financial difficulties and unable to send representatives to the Zone meetings, NCEES has agreed to fund one delegate from each Board to attend the Zone Meetings just as they do for the Annual Meeting.

The Annual NCEES Meeting is scheduled for August 13-16, 2008 in Minneapolis, MN. Ms. Rosier reminded Board members and staff that registration for the meeting is due by July 3, 2008.

Ms. Rosier reported that ELSEES has entered into a contract to use the Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown for our future FE examination administrations. ELSEES has also requested that examinees register on their website after being approved by the WV Board to eliminate the data entry and multiple conversions under the current arrangement. The Board still maintains full control and approval authority for who is eligible and approved to sit for the examinations.

The Board discussed Rule Revisions and the possibility of submitting them for legislative review in 2009. NCEES is scheduled to review the Model Rules in 2009 and propose necessary changes. Since no major revisions to the rules are currently pressing, the Board decided to delay WV Rule Revisions until after NCEES has acted to allow consistency where feasible.

The Marshall University/WVU Tech agreement on offering a WVU Tech degree at the Marshall campus will be ending prior to Marshall receiving ABET approval. Students graduating in the interim may not be eligible for licensure. As an interim measure, Mr. Saluja moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the following, which passed with one abstention:

- Marshall University students graduating with a Marshall Engineering BS in Engineering degree who wish to sit for an FE examination prior to Marshall receiving ABET accreditation will be required to sign a candidate agreement which states they understand they will be provided their exam results but will not be certified as an EI until Marshall's BS Engineering ABET-accreditation is official. The agreement will state that should Marshall not receive ABET-EAC accreditation, the exam results will be voided.

Mr. Robinson suggested that the Board maintain a record of people who report non-compliance with WV Engineering Law and 5G at some personal/professional risk to themselves for possible recognition through the newsletter or in some other appropriate manner.

The WV Legislature is holding interim meetings to review and discuss the operation of regulatory boards. Ms. Hamilton will attend the meetings on the Board's behalf and report back to the Board.

The Board discussed the first annual recognition ceremony for those who passed the NCEES Principles and Practice Exam and Fundamentals of Engineering Exam in WV during the last two exam administrations. The Board felt this was a worthwhile endeavor and will work with ACEC to continue the ceremony on an annual basis at the WV Equipment and Design Exposition.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2008. The meeting will take place at the PE Board office located at 300 Capitol Street, Charleston, WV.

Upon motion by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Plymale, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.
The Board members will be compensated one day per diem plus travel expenses.

Leonard J. Timms, Jr., P.E.
Board President

Bhajan S. Saluja, P.E.
Board Secretary