

General Session Minutes
State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers
September 18, 2012

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers met in their offices at 300 Capitol Street in Charleston, WV on Tuesday, September 18, 2012. Those present for all or part of the meeting were:

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. The new laptop computers approved at the July Board meeting had been received and were set-up in the Board room. Ms. Rosier reviewed how to use the software shortcuts on the laptop to access the electronic Board meeting information. The meeting was conducted using the new laptops.

The Board meeting minutes for July 16, 2012 (both executive and general session) were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried.

The Board budget summaries for July and August 2012 were received and reviewed, noting a correction needed on FY dates 2013 vs. 2012. The detailed purchasing card expenditures were also received and reviewed. A motion to approve the current expenditures and purchasing card transactions was made by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Pierson. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosier reported that for the first time ever the WV State Budget Office requested that non-appropriated Boards provide an Appropriation Request. Officials from the WV State Budget Office indicated the need to provide a more accurate accounting of total state budgets and that it is not intended to change the way this Board is currently funded.

Ms. Rosier presented the Executive Director's report and addressed all Board questions and comments. Ms. Rosier discussed participation in recent events and presentations made by her to various groups since the last Board meeting. She also reviewed the office's schedule of upcoming activities. A motion was made by Mr. Plymale, seconded by Mr. Timms, to approve attendance and travel for Board member and staff activities outlined in the Executive Director's report and updated 2012 calendar of events, including Ms. Rubenstein's attendance at the 2013 FARB meeting in January. Motion carried.

The pass rates for the April 2012 exam were discussed. Mr. Pierson raised the question as to how the national exam passage rates do not include engineering technology students as West Virginia's overall passage rates do. Ms. Rosier provided some quick computations for the last 3 exam administrations which reflected the added engineering technology scores appeared to decrease the WV passage rates anywhere from 5-10% in any given exam administration. Mr. Pierson recommended we keep this in mind when referencing state vs. national passage rates in the future. Mr. Timms volunteered to put together a related article for the Board newsletter to include, among other items, current statewide vs. national passage rates.

There are two remaining paper-and-pencil FE exam administrations to be offered in 2013 before the conversion to Computer Based Testing (CBT). The Board will continue to require the Educational Plans of Study with the applications of those who have failed the FE exam 3 or more times.

Mr. Saluja moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:45 AM, seconded by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried.

The Board recessed at 1:20 PM in Executive Session for an informal conference regarding complaint C2010-12. The Board meeting resumed at 3:45 PM in Executive Session.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session Mr. Timms moved to enter into general session with a second by Mr. Saluja. Motion carried and the Board took the following actions:

1. A motion was made by Mr. Saluja, seconded by Mr. Plymale directing Ms. Hamilton to send a "Notice to Show Cause" letter to the respondent in complaint C2009-11 if he has not met the conditions of the Consent Order by October 1st. Motion carried.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Saluja directing Ms. Hamilton to send a "Notice to Show Cause" letter to the respondent in complaint C2012-04. Motion carried. The Florida Board is to be copied in on the letter.
3. A motion was made by Mr. Saluja, seconded by Mr. Timms to dismiss complaint C2012-14. Motion carried. Respondent will be copied in dismissal letter to complainant.
4. Mr. Timms made a motion that inquiry I2012-07 be filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pierson and carried. Ms. Rosier asked to be excused from this matter, which request was granted, and she absented herself, and will continue to absent herself, from any involvement in this complaint.

Based on a motion by Mr. Timms, seconded by Mr. Pierson, the Board took the following actions on Special Cases for Board Action:

1. John F. Germ's request for comity was approved.
2. Michael D. Neely's request for comity was approved.
3. Bradley E. Peter's request for comity was approved.

Ms. Rosier reported that Charlotte Keller has been hired as a temporary administrative assistant to fill the position of our summer intern who returned to school in mid-August. Ms. Keller will be assisting our agency through the end of 2012, helping with license renewal processing, continuing education audit needs and other duties as needed while staff member Davis is on maternity leave.

The recent NCEES Annual meeting was discussed. There were no major issues and all attending agreed the meeting was extremely informative and ran very efficiently.

Ms. Rosier provided an update on CBT. Implementation is still on schedule for January 2014. The length of the examination is still being reviewed by NCEES but is anticipated to be less than the current eight (8) hours. To help avoid confusion between the new and current FE specifications, NCEES is waiting until 2013 to release the detailed specifications. When they are posted, the specifications will include additional information within each domain and the percentages of each topic on the exams.

The October exam preparation was discussed. Mr. Timms will be the observer at the Morgantown site for both the FE and PE exams. Ms. Rosier and Ms. Davis will be the observers for the Charleston exams on both days.

Ms. Rosier addressed the question about whether or not the Board should continue to obtain and store institutional report exam data for our state institutions. The Board staff has not accessed this data from NCEES in a number of years and will not access the data unless directed by the Board to do so at some time in the future.

Mr. Timms discussed his NCEES activities. He reported on an upcoming ACCA charge regarding allowing new graduates to sit for the PE exam immediately after completing their degree and passing the FE exam.

The proposed statute revision was discussed. Based on the feedback from our interim meeting with House and Senate Government Organization Committee leadership and staff on August 15th, there does not appear to be adequate time for a major rewrite to be reviewed for introduction during the 2013 legislative session. Given the circumstances, the Board has decided to simply pursue minimal changes to W.Va. Code 30-13-15 to allow the WV PE Board to offer the engineering licensing exams in whatever form dictated by NCEES. Ms. Rosier was directed to convey this information to Mr. Roskovensky, Counsel for the House Government Organization Subcommittee, as soon as possible.

Ms. Rosier reported on the 2012-2013 renewal season status. As of September 16th there are 282 PEs, 29 Retired PEs and 120 COAs who have not renewed. Final courtesy e-mails reminding them of the September 30th deadline will be sent during the last week of the renewal grace period.

Mr. Timms reported that he sent an e-mail to WV Wesleyan College officials questioning a newspaper article in the northern part of the state about how their programs can supply highly skilled engineers. After reviewing Mr. Timms' concerns, the college agreed to change references to their program to pre-engineering and have invited Mr. Timms to provide an engineering licensure presentation to their faculty and students tomorrow evening on their campus.

Mr. Pierson raised the question about the Board's willingness to accept electronic delivery of transcripts. Marshall University, as well as other institutions, are already implementing processes to allow for this secure transfer. Mr. Pierson will get additional information from the Marshall Registrar. Ms. Rosier will contact other Boards to see if they are allowing the electronic delivery of transcripts and, if so, learn if they have encountered any problems.

Ms. Rosier discussed a request from the Design-Build Board to distribute proposed modifications to their legislative rules to members of our "association". After polling the Board it was decided to not distribute the proposed rule changes to all of our 10,000+ licensees but to place a public notice of the proposed rule changes on our Special Announcement bulletin board on the homepage of our website along with a computer link to access the proposed rules via the WV Secretary of State's office.

Board participation in the WV EXPO was discussed. It was decided to completely change the program and focus on "Trends in Engineering Education". Ms. Rosier will contact EXPO staff to see if a longer time slot is available for the Board's extended program. If additional time is available, Ms. Rosier will explore bringing in speakers from NCEES and ASCE to discuss the new exam specifications and CBT as well as the "Raising the Bar" initiative. The Board also agreed to continue the joint program with WVSPE to recognize our 2012 successful examinees.

Mr. Pierson made a motion to approve the expenditures to continue the Board's participation in the WV EXPO, to include a booth rental space, our continuing education program advertisement, as well as any necessary expenses needed for the extension of our continuing education program such as speaker expenses, etc. The motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried.

The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2012 and will take place in the Andrews Conference Center of the WVU College of Engineering and Mineral Resources Building on the Evansdale Campus in Morgantown, WV. Ms. Rosier is to confirm the availability of WVU officials and will then notice the WV Secretary of State's office.

Upon motion by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Timms, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The Board members will be compensated one day per diem plus travel expenses.

Edward L. Robinson P.E.
Board President

Bhajan S. Saluja, P.E.
Board Secretary