

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, MI 48864-5955
Professional Engineers

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2007

In accordance with the Open Meeting Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended, the Board of Professional Engineers met in Regular Session on April 19, 2007, at the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Commercial Services, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Room 1, Okemos, Michigan. Vice Chairperson, Regine Beauboeuf called the business meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Regine Beauboeuf	Vice Chairperson
	Mahmoud El-Gamal	Member
	Karol Grove	Member
	George Karmo	Member
	John Kraus	Member
	Kevin Prihod	Member
	Robert Stempien	Member
Absent:	Gwendolyn Hale	Member
	Ronald Hausmann	Member
Staff:	Gloria Keene	Licensing Administrator
	Michael Pillow	Assistant Licensing Administrator
	Jackie Jernigan	Secretary to the Licensing Administrator
	Stephen Gobbo	Manager, Compliance Mediation Division
	Barrington Carr	Manager, Enforcement Division
Visitors:	Ali Al-Jawad	Petitioner
	Goray Mookerjee	Emeritus Board Member

ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDA

None

Introduction of New Board Members

The Board Members introduced themselves and welcomed newly appointed Board Members, Mahmoud El-Gamal, George Karmo, John Kraus and Kevin Prihod. The new Board Members succeeded Gregory Bovid, Stephen Miller, David Mester and Ronald Quackenbush, respectively, whose terms had expired.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD JANUARY 11, 2007

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Grove and supported by Mr. Stempien that the Engineering Board Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2007 be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously.

PETITIONS

Examination

Hamid U. Ahmed is applying to sit for the PE examination. He meets experience requirements. However, he doesn't meet the education requirements of holding an ABET/EAC accredited degree. Mr. Ahmed holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology in Dhaka, Bangladesh (1976). The Department denied Mr. Ahmed's application because his CPEES evaluation shows deficiencies of (10.0) semester hours in Math/Basic Sciences and (13.0) semester hours in Humanities/Social Sciences.

Mr. Ahmed maintains that his P.Eng. Licensure in Canada, as well as his (30) years work experience in engineering is equivalent to an ABET/EAC accredited degree and qualifies him to sit for the PE examination in Michigan.

Mr. Ahmed did not appear before the Board.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Grove and supported by Mr. Prihod to overturn the Department's denial to sit for the Principles and Practice examination based upon the evidence presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The Department concurred.

Examination

Syed R. Islam is applying to sit for the PE examination. He meets experience requirements. However, he doesn't meet the education requirements of holding an ABET/EAC accredited degree. Mr. Islam holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology in Bangladesh (1990). The Department denied Mr. Islam's application because his CPEES evaluation shows deficiencies of (9.0) semester hours in Math/Basic Sciences and (13.0) semester hours in Humanities/Social Sciences.

Mr. Islam maintains that his P.Eng Licensure in Canada, as well as his (14) years work experience in Engineering demonstrates equivalency to qualify him to sit for the PE examination in Michigan.

Mr. Islam did not appear before the Board.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Mahmoud and supported by Mr. Stempien to overturn the Department's denial and allow the applicant to sit for the Principles and Practice examination, provided that the applicant submit five completed Experience Verification Forms acceptable to the Board. Three of the five Experience Verification Forms are to be submitted by Professional Engineers. The motion carried unanimously.

The Department concurred.

Examination

Kusila De Silva Jayanetti is applying to sit for the PE examination. She meets experience requirements. However, she doesn't meet the education requirements of holding an ABET/EAC accredited degree. Ms. Jayanetti holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka (1985). The Department denied Ms. De Silva Jayanetti's application because her ECE evaluation shows deficiencies of (6.5) semester hours in Math/Basic Sciences and (14.0) semester hours in Humanities/Social Sciences.

Ms. De Silva Jayanetti maintains that her P.Eng Licensure in Canada, as well as her (20) years work experience in Engineering demonstrates equivalency to qualify her to sit for the PE examination in Michigan.

Ms. De Silva Jayanetti did not appear before the Board.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Grove and supported by Mr. Prihod to overturn the Department's denial and allow the applicant to sit for

the Principles and Practice examination based upon the evidence presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The Department concurred.

Reciprocity

Ali Al-Jawad's petition was tabled from the June 8, 2006 Board Meeting to allow Mr. Al-Jawad time to obtain an evaluation of his education from ECEI. This petition was again reviewed at the September 28, 2006 Board Meeting and again tabled due to the lack of a completed education evaluation.

The applicant meets experience and examination requirements. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree (1991) and a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering (1995) from University of Technology, Baghdad, Iraq. The Department denied Mr. Al-Jawad's application because his degree is not ABET/EAC accredited. The only education evaluation the applicant has been able to obtain over the last six years is from WES. ECEI and ECE have refused to provide an evaluation of Mr. Al-Jawad's education credentials without official transcripts from Iraq.

Since ECEI suspended operations in October 2006 and the Board adopted The Center for Professional Engineering Education Services (CPEES) as Michigan's evaluation service, the applicant applied to CPEES on November 16, 2006 for a credential evaluation. In January 2007, CPEES notified the Department that Mr. Al-Jawad's application was on hold for authenticity verification of his credentials. However, CPEES is working through other avenues to verify Mr. Al-Jawad's education credentials.

Mr. Al-Jawad maintains his education is equivalent to an ABET/EAC accredited degree. He also states that his PE licensure in Ohio and 6 years of work experience as an engineer in Wayne County; establish equivalency to qualify him for reciprocal licensure in Michigan. Although Mr. Al-Jawad has requested an evaluation of his education from CPEES, he does not wish to wait for the evaluation to be completed before the Board's consideration of his petition. (See letter dated March 21, 2007). Based upon the information Mr. Al-Jawad has submitted to date, the Department is not satisfied that Mr. Al-Jawad has submitted sufficient evidence to equate his degrees with Michigan's education requirements for reciprocal licensure as a Professional Engineer in Michigan. However, per Mr. Al-Jawad's request, his petition was added to the agenda.

Mr. Al-Jawad appeared before the Board.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Karmo and supported by Mr. El-Gamal to table the applicant's petition until the next scheduled Board Meeting of

June 7, 2007, pending information from CPEES attesting to the authenticity of Mr. Al-Jawad's transcripts and/or a completed evaluation by CPEES. Additionally, per Mr. Al-Jawad's request for a final decision regardless of obtaining a completed evaluation report from CPEES, the Board also agreed to make a final decision concerning Mr. Al-Jawad's application. The motion carried unanimously.

The Department concurred.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Standing Complaints

Board members were provided a report from the Enforcement Division of complaint activities against Professional Engineers for the period of 12-31-06 thru 4-6-07. The report contained complaints filed during the quarter, the number of complaints currently pending, the age of the complaints and the status of the complaints. There were 6 pending Professional Engineer complaints for the period of December 31, 2006 until present.

Foreign Credential Evaluation Service of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)

Ms. Keene advised that she was contacted by AACRAO. They asked if they could appear at the Board's next meeting to present information concerning their evaluation of foreign education credentials for applicants seeking licensure as a Professional Engineer in Michigan.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. El-Gamal and supported by Mr. Kraus to invite the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) to the Board Meeting on June 7, 2007 so that they may present information concerning their evaluation of foreign education credentials to the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of New Officers

CHAIRPERSON

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Karmo and supported by Ms. Grove to nominate Ms. Beauboeuf to fill the position of Board Chairperson. The motion carried unanimously.

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Motion: It was moved by Mr. El-Gamal and supported by Ms. Grove to nominate Mr. Karmo to fill the position of Board Vice Chairperson. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions for Greg Bovid, Steve Miller and Dave Mester

Ms. Keene suggested former Board members, Mr. Bovid, Mr. Miller and Mr. Mester each be provided a resolution to show appreciation for their service to the Board.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Grove and supported by Mr. Stempien that the Department prepare individual resolutions honoring Greg Bovid, Steve Miller and Dave Mester for their service on the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Emeritus Member Status

Ms. Keene advised that former Board Members can be nominated for Emeritus Appointment by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Grove and supported by Mr. Karmo to nominate Greg Bovid, Steve Miller and Dave Mester as Emeritus Members for NCEES. The motion carried unanimously.

National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) 2007 Board President/Member Board Administrators (MBA) Assembly

Ms. Keene advised the Board President's Assembly was held in Atlanta, Georgia on February 15-17, 2007. Ms. Keene attended the meeting with Regine Beauboeuf, Chair of the Professional Engineers Board and Car Shangraw, Chair of the Professional Surveyor's Board. Following are highlights from the meeting.

- Ms. Keene reported that the foreign evaluation process by the Center for Professional Engineering Education Services (CPEES) was discussed. Only official documents issued by the appropriate institution are considered for evaluation. State Boards were also warned about the rampant distribution of fraudulent foreign transcripts.
- Ms. Keene advised that there was a discussion about exam copying/collusion and NCEES' efforts to enhance exam security.

- Ms. Keene stated that there was also a discussion about the development of a national registration for approved exam candidates. Through this system, the Council will track candidates that fail the exam more than three times.
- Ms. Keene stated that there was a discussion at the meeting about computer based testing. NCEES is considering computer based testing at this time thru a separate task force.
- Ms. Keene reported that there was discussion about the Registered Continuing Education Providers Program. The program was started in August of 2006 and it will allow Engineers and Surveyors to fulfill and track continuing professional competency requirements.
- Ms. Keene went on to say that at the Board Presidents Assembly there was a discussion about the new bachelor's plus 30 education requirements that is to go into effect January 1, 2015.
- Ms. Keene advised that NCEES is celebrating 100 years of Engineering licensure this year. All of the states were encouraged to request a Gubernatorial Proclamation from their respective Governor. The Proclamations will be on display during the 2007 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.
- The Central Zone meeting will be held May 17 – 19th in Rapid City, South Dakota.
- The Annual Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 22 – 25, 2007.

STAFF REPORT

Board Member Training/Joint Board Meeting

Ms. Keene advised that the Board Member Training meeting was cancelled due to the budget crisis, however the Joint Board Meeting will be held. The proposed date for the meeting is August 9, 2007. Carl Shangraw from the Professional Surveyors Board will be the Chairperson for the meeting. Ms. Keene asked Board Members for topics that they would like discussed. Some topics mentioned were:

1. Continuing Education
2. Incidental Practice
3. Overlapping of Professional Practice

4. Firm Practice

Legislative Update

There was nothing to report at this time.

ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Professional Engineers will be held on June 7, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

_____ Date: _____
Regine Beauboeuf, Chairperson

_____ Date: _____
Jackie Jernigan, Recording Secretary