

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

Professional Engineers

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2007

In accordance with the Open Meeting Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended, the Board of Professional Engineers met in Regular Session on June 7, 2007, at the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Commercial Services, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Room 1, Okemos, Michigan. Vice Chairperson, George Karmo called the business meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Mahmoud El-Gamal	Member
	Karol Grove	Member
	Gwendolyn Hale	Member
	*Ronald Hausmann	Member
	George Karmo	Vice Chairperson
	John Kraus	Member
	Kevin Prihod	Member
Absent:	Regine Beauboeuf	Chairperson
	Robert Stempien	Member
Staff:	Gloria Keene	Licensing Administrator
	Michael Pillow	Assistant Licensing Administrator
	Jackie Jernigan	Secretary to the Licensing Administrator
	Barrington Carr	Manager, Enforcement Division
	Andy Metcalf, Jr.	Director
	Amy Shell	Policy Specialist
Visitors:	Ali Al-Jawad	Petitioner
	Aseel Putros	Petitioner
	Dale Gough	AACRAO

* Left at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDA

Ms. Keene asked that Legislative Updates (Amy Shell) be added under Staff Report under 7.a.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD APRIL 19, 2007

Motion: It was moved by Mr. El-Gamal and supported by Ms. Grove that the Engineering Board Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2007 be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously.

PETITIONS

Reciprocity

Ali Al-Jawad 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 give evaluations without an official transcript from Iraq.

Mr. Al-Jawad's petition was tabled from the June 8, 2006 Board Meeting pending an evaluation of Mr. Al-Jawad's education credentials from ECEI. Per Mr. Al-Jawad's request, his petition was reviewed at the September 28, 2006 Board meeting and again after extensive questioning and discussion by the Board, tabled due to the lack of a completed education evaluation from ECEI.

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' update on the status of Mr. Al-Jawad's evaluation revealed Mr. Al-Jawad's application was on hold for authenticity verification of his credentials. CPEES also indicated they were 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 requested an evaluation of his education from CPEES, he advised the Department that he did not wish to wait for the evaluation to be completed before the Board's consideration of his petition (see letter dated March 21, 2007) at subsequent Board meetings. Based upon the information Mr. Al-Jawad submitted to date,

the Department is not satisfied that Mr. Al-Jawad has demonstrated equivalency to Michigan's education requirements.

Per Mr. Al-Jawad's request, the Board tabled Mr. Al-Jawad's petition until today's meeting to allow time for the Board to obtain additional information and/or a completed evaluation from CPEES. Further, per Mr. Al-Jawad's request, the Board agreed to make a final determination concerning his petition at today's meeting.

Mr. Al-Jawad appeared before the Board.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Hausmann and supported by Ms. Grove to remove Mr. Al-Jawad's petition from the table. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Hausmann and supported by Ms. Hale to uphold the Department's denial, and deny Mr. Al-Jawad licensure by reciprocity based upon the applicant's failure to demonstrate equivalency to Michigan's education requirements. The Board recommended Mr. Al-Jawad re-apply upon the results of a completed evaluation from CPEES. The motion carried unanimously.

The Department concurred.

Reciprocity

James Pfluger meets experience and examination requirements. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology from the Pennsylvania State University (1971). The Department denied Mr. Pfluger's application because his degree is not ABET/EAC accredited.

Mr. Pfluger maintains his education is equivalent to an ABET/EAC accredited degree. He also states that his PE licensure in Pennsylvania for over 32 years and engineering work experience for 37 years, establish equivalency to qualify him for reciprocal licensure in Michigan.

Mr. Pfluger did not appear before the Board.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Hale and supported by Mr. Hausmann to uphold the Department's denial, and deny the Mr. Pfluger licensure by reciprocity based upon the applicant's failure to present sufficient evidence of meeting the education requirements of an ABET-accredited degree in Engineering. The motion carried unanimously.

The Department concurred.

Examination

Aseel Putros is applying to sit for the PE examination. She does not meet the education requirements of holding an ABET/EAC accredited degree. Ms. Putros holds a Bachelor of Science Degree (1996) in Building & Construction Engineering (Civil) from University of Technology in Iraq. Her ECE evaluation shows deficiencies of (5.5) semester hours in Humanities/Social Sciences and (17) semester hours in Math/Basic Sciences.

Ms. Putros maintains that her degree is equivalent to an ABET/EAC accredited degree and that (7) years of engineering work experience offset the deficiencies and should qualify her to sit for the PE examination in Michigan.

Ms. Putros appeared before the Board.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. El-Gamal and supported by Ms. Grove to overturn the Department's denial and allow Ms. Putros to sit for the PE examination based upon the evidence presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The Department concurred.

Examination

Dr. Myoungsu Sin, aka James Shin, is applying to sit for the PE examination. Dr. Shin doesn't meet the education requirements of holding an ABET/EAC accredited bachelor's degree or a master's degree from a program that is ABET/EAC accredited at the bachelor level. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree (1994) in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science Degree (1998) in Civil Engineering from Seoul National University in South Korea. Dr. Shin holds a Ph.D. Degree (2004) in Civil Engineering from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Shin maintains that his education should be equivalent to an ABET/EAC accredited degree since the coursework taken for his Ph.D. equals or exceeds the credit hours needed for a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering.

Dr. Shin did not appear before the Board.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Grove and supported by Mr. El-Gamal to uphold the Department's denial and deny the applicant's request to sit for the PE examination based upon the evidence presented. The Board also determined in order to re-apply, Dr. Shin would be

required to submit a completed evaluation from CPEES of his education from Seoul National University in South Korea. The motion carried unanimously.

The Department concurred.

Reciprocity

Matthew Pawlak meets experience and examination requirements. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Engineering Technology from the University of Toledo (1997). The Department denied Mr. Pawlak's application because his degree is not ABET/EAC accredited.

Mr. Pawlak maintains his education is equivalent to an ABET/EAC accredited degree. He has taken (15) semester hours of additional coursework from an ABET/EAC accredited program at the University of Toledo. He also states that his PE licensure in Ohio and engineering work experience for 9 years, establish equivalency to qualify him for reciprocal licensure in Michigan.

Mr. Pawlak did not appear before the Board.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Hausmann and supported by Ms. Grove to uphold the Department's denial, and deny Mr. Pawlak's request for licensure by reciprocity based upon the evidence presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The Department concurred.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Standing Complaints

Board members were provided a report from the Enforcement Division concerning complaint activities against Professional Engineers for the period of 12-31-06 thru 6-5-07. 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 10 pending Professional Engineer complaints for the period of December 31, 2006 until the present.

NEW BUSINESS

NCEES Board of Director's Meeting and Central Zone Meeting, Rapid City, South Dakota, May 16-19, 2007

Ms. Keene advised that as the Zone Representative for the Central Zone, she was invited to attend the May NCEES Board of Directors Meeting. She advised

that the meeting was very productive and informative. Ms Keene also attended the NCEES Central Zone Meeting. She provided the following highlights from the meeting:

- NCEES will be appointing a task force to evaluate the effectiveness of computer based testing for the FE and PE examinations.
- The Center is ahead of schedule in evaluating foreign degrees.
- Social security numbers will be eliminated from the examination sheets.
- NCEES will continue limiting the approved calculators to four approved models.
- NCEES runs a collusion evaluation on all of their examinations to validate the security of the examinations.
- NCEES will initiate efforts to heighten the awareness and importance of licensure for engineers and surveyors.

New Mexico Resolution

Ms. Keene advised that the New Mexico Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors hopes to remove “engineering surveys” from the current NCEES Model Law language in the definition of engineering because they believe it is endorsing unlicensed practice of surveying. This topic will be voted on at the 2007 NCEES Annual Meeting. The Board members agreed that the topic should be placed on the agenda of the Joint Board Meeting that will be held August 9, 2007.

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Annual Meeting, August 22-25, 2007, Philadelphia, PA

Ms. Keene was appointed as the delegate to the 2007 NCEES Annual Meeting.

Governor’s Proclamation honoring 100 Years of Engineering Licensure

The Board members were given a copy of the governor’s proclamation that will be mailed to NCEES. NCEES is celebrating 100 years of engineering licensure and have asked that each Member Board request a proclamation from their Governor honoring 100 years of engineering licensure. The proclamations will be on display during the 2007 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

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

Dale Gough, Director of International Education Services, AACRAO, gave a presentation to the Board regarding AACRAO’s foreign credential evaluation service. He advised that AACRAO has been involved in the evaluation of foreign

degrees since 1994 to member institutions, agencies, certification and licensing boards and the public. At the present time, fifteen states use AACRAO's services. Mr. Gough reported that AACRAO verifies the authenticity of foreign documents. He also advised that the evaluation of foreign credentials takes about 15 business days from a completed file. Records are kept on file for 3 years.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Keene reported on Senate Bills 450, 451, 452 and 453 which impact the profession of residential builders and maintenance and alteration contractors. The bills were passed by the Senate on May 23, 2007 and are currently under review by the House of Representatives. While the package of bills includes language that clarifies the state's authority to pursue unlicensed activity for all of the professions under the Occupational Code, it also establishes an enforcement fund that can only be utilized to prosecute unlicensed builders and contractors. The Board members discussed including language in the bills to fund unlicensed activity for the design professions. Additionally, they requested the topic be placed on the agenda of the Joint Board Meeting in August to get input from the other board members.

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 September 27, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

George Karmo, Vice Chairperson

Date: _____

Jackie Jernigan, Recording Secretary

Date: _____