



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
March 26, 2021
APPROVED**

Attendance:

Dr. Patrick Quaid (President)
Mr. Bashar Kassir (Vice-President)
Ms. Suzanne Allen
Ms. Kathryn Biondi
Dr. Linda Chan
Dr. Lisa Christian
Mr. Ravnit Dhaliwal
Dr. Mark Eltis
Dr. Camy Grewal

Ms. Winona Hutchinson
Mr. Howard Kennedy
Dr. Richard Kniaziew
Dr. Lindy Mackey
Dr. Annie Micucci
Dr. Areef Nurani
Mr. Narendra Shah
Dr. William Ulakovic

Staff:

Mr. Joe Jamieson, Registrar and CEO
Ms. Hanan Jibry, Deputy Registrar
Mr. Chad Andrews
Mr. Edward Cho
Ms. Mina Kavanagh

Ms. Amber Lepage-Monette
Ms. Deborah McKeon
Dr. David Wilkinson
Ms. Bonny Wong

- 1 **1. Call to Order:** P. Quaid called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
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3 P. Quaid opened the meeting by sharing remembrances of Dr. Gina Sorbara, who passed away in
4 February 2021.
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6 **2. Adoption of the Agenda:** A draft agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.
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8 Moved by W. Hutchinson and seconded by H. Kennedy **to adopt the agenda.**
9 **Motion carried**
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11 **a. Conflicts of Interest:** P. Quaid asked Council members if anyone had a conflict of interest with any
12 item on the day's agenda. None declared.
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14 **3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda:** A draft consent agenda was circulated prior to the meeting. The
15 following items were included in the consent agenda:

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PART 1 - Minutes of Prior Council Meetings

- a. December 4, 2020
- b. January 22, 2021
- c. February 9, 2021
- d. Motions and Actions Items Arising from the Minutes

PART 2 - Reports

- a. Committee Reports
 - i. Executive Committee
 - ii. Patient Relations
 - iii. Quality Assurance:
 - a) QA Panel
 - b) CP Panel
 - iv. Inquiries, Complaints, and Reports Committee (ICRC)
 - v. Registration
 - vi. Discipline
 - vii. Governance/HR Committee
 - viii. Audit/Finance/Risk Committee

Moved by K. Biondi and R. Kniaziew **to adopt the consent agenda.**

Motion carried

Several members of Council asked to discuss the Executive Committee report and the ICRC report.

A. Nurani noted he had questions about each of the committee reports.

Executive Committee report:

A. Nurani asked about the progress to date to address transparency on the Executive Committee, noting that the legislation sets out the role of the Executive Committee and questioned the need to reduce the committee's power.

P. Quaid and B. Kassir addressed these questions, noting that the Executive Committee has been meeting to discuss roles and responsibilities. Any recommendations would go to Governance/HR Committee first; the intention is to present recommendations to Council in June.

<p>Action item: College staff will perform a jurisdictional scan of other regulatory colleges regarding the Executive committee function, composition and terms, as well as frequency of meetings, and present results to the Governance/HR committee.</p>

ICRC Report:

Council noted the issue of ancillary testing and fees continues to be an issue.

60 J. Jamieson reminded Council that four communications, which constitute practice advise, were sent to
61 optometrists in 2020 addressing this issue. Non-adherence to practice advice is not necessarily
62 misconduct.

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64 Council noted concerns related to OHIP-insured patients and ancillary testing, as well as queries from
65 the Ministry (OHIP) about complaints on this issue. In addition, Council asked about the need for a more
66 formal policy that is enforceable.

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68 Council discussed challenges that arise when optometrists feel ancillary testing is necessary. It is noted
69 by some that clinicians should be able to recommend the best care and appropriate technology;
70 prescriptive policies would remove the ability to provide such care.

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72 **Action item:** Using existing communications, the College will send a reminder to optometrists about ancillary
73 testing and fees.

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75 Council revisited the discussion from the December 4, 2020 Council meeting regarding the College’s
76 interest in funding research; Council clarified the intent of the funding and how it may differ from
77 existing Canadian Optometric Trust Fund.

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79 Council discussed the need to evaluate and measure outcomes on College training sessions, such as the
80 sexual abuse training and cybersecurity training for staff and Council. J. Jamieson confirmed that, going
81 forward, the College Performance Measurement Framework (CPMF) will provide some of the outcomes-
82 based information on training and education.

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84 Council discussed the number of Continuing Education (CE) hours provided through Quality Assurance
85 Assessor training. It was clarified that the training is a full-day education process consistent with the CE
86 Policy.

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88 Council discussed the process by which the COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control guidance is
89 reviewed and updated. C. Grewal noted that the document was intended to be dynamic and updated
90 over time. Updates were made throughout 2020 and she will bring the comments back to the Clinical
91 Practice Panel for discussion.

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93 A. Nurani asked about the need for a new auditor. It was clarified that, in keeping with best practices,
94 the College intends to rotate auditors approximately every three years.

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96 A. Nurani questioned why the Audit/Finance/Risk (AFR) Committee did not recommend reducing
97 optometrists’ member fees in 2020. Members from the AFR Committee noted that the question of fees
98 was discussed, and many issues were taken into consideration. It was decided the College needed to
99 wait until the end of 2020 to know the full impact of COVID-19 closures.

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101 Moved by A. Nurani and seconded by W. Hutchinson **that the Audit/Finance/Risk Committee revisit a**
102 **fee reduction for optometrists.**

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104 Show of hands – none against.

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Motion carried

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107 Council took a break at 10:40 a.m. and returned at 10:50 a.m.

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109 **4. Registrar's Report**

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111 J. Jamieson provided operational updates regarding upcoming College work, including upcoming
112 revisions to the College website and a new organizational chart. Staff provided updates on main areas of
113 College functions: Registration, Investigations, Finance, Quality Assurance, and Governance.

114

115 Council asked about staffing, as well as the proposed topic for an upcoming e-learning module (i.e.,
116 addressing common complaints). Regarding the e-learning module, J. Jamieson noted that although the
117 number of complaints among the profession is low, any infraction against the public is too much and the
118 topic is felt to be appropriate.

119

120 Council asked about the online jurisprudence exam being available 24/7 as opposed to in one sitting.

121 H. Jibry noted the online exam is remote proctored by a service that provides staff with a report of any
122 anomalies.

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124 **5. IN CAMERA SESSION: College Performance Measurement Framework (CPMF)** In accordance with
125 Section 7 (1.1) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code* (HPPC), Council will go in camera under Section
126 7(2)(b) of the HPPC, whereby financial, personal or other matters may be disclosed of such a nature that
127 the harm created by the disclosure would outweigh the desirability of adhering to the principle that
128 meetings be open to the public.

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130 Moved by K. Biondi and seconded by W. Hutchinson **to move the meeting in camera.**

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Motion carried

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Council moved out of camera at 12:22 p.m.

6. Motions Brought Forward from Committees:

a. [College Performance Measurement Framework](#)

Moved by C. Grewal and seconded by M. Eltis to approve the College Performance Measurement Framework.

Motion carried

b. Governance/HR: [By-law Administrative Changes](#)

Council noted a few typos and asked about the timing of Executive Committee elections; the revised by-laws still note the elections occurring at the first meeting of the year, which now takes place in March.

K. Biondi noted that elections will take place at a special meeting at the beginning of the year, as is best practice.

Moved by N. Shah and seconded by R. Kniaziew to approve the proposed by-law changes that reflect the necessary administrative changes stemming from items i. and vii. from the October 15, 2020 Special Council agenda.

Motion carried

C. Grewal presented on the following two motions regarding updates to the Optometric Practice Reference (OPR).

c. Clinical Practice Panel: [OPR 7.12 Patients with Amblyopia](#)

d. Clinical Practice Panel: [OPR 7.13 Patients with Uveitis](#)

Council discussed the proposed changes to both sections of the OPR.

Council questioned the evidenced used to support the suggested changes, as well as with the prescriptive nature of the changes suggested for 7.13.

Action item: OPR 7.12 and 7.13 will be reviewed again by the CPP.
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e. Clinical Practice Panel: [Public Register](#)

Council was in favour of the broader search information being made available to the public. At this time, some information is available to staff only when responding to calls and queries from the public. This update will enable members of the public to search the public register for this information themselves.

192 H. Jibry clarified that staff are already working to update the search fields and this function may be
193 available soon.

194

195 Moved by A. Nurani and seconded by L. Chan **to approve the addition of search fields for i) wheelchair**
196 **accessibility, and ii) home visits, to the College public register effective late 2021.**

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198 P. Quaid asked for a show of hands. None were against.

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Motion carried

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201 Council discussed the upcoming audit approval. R. Dhaliwal indicated that meeting dates are being
202 reviewed.

203

204 Council asked about in-person meetings. J. Jamieson noted the College is following provincial and local
205 public health orders and will keep Council updated once in-person meetings are possible.

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207 **9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.**