



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
September 17, 2021
APPROVED**

Attendance:

Dr. Patrick Quaid (President)	Dr. Richard Kniaziew
Mr. Bashar Kassir (Vice-President)	Dr. Lindy Mackey
Ms. Suzanne Allen	Dr. Annie Micucci
Ms. Kathryn Biondi	Dr. Areef Nurani
Dr. Lisa Christian	Mr. Narendra Shah
Dr. Mark Eltis	Dr. William Ulakovic
Dr. Camy Grewal	

Regrets:

Dr. Linda Chan
Mr. Ravnit Dhaliwal
Mr. Howard Kennedy

Staff & Guests:

Mr. Joe Jamieson, Registrar and CEO	Mr. Edward Cho
Ms. Hanan Jibry, Deputy Registrar	Ms. Amber Lepage-Monette

- 1 **1. Call to Order:** P. Quaid called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
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3 **2. Adoption of the Agenda:** A draft agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.
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5 Moved by M. Eltis and seconded by K. Biondi **to adopt the agenda.**
6 **Motion carried**
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8 **a. Conflicts of Interest:** P. Quaid asked Council members if anyone had a conflict of interest with any
9 item on the day's agenda. None were declared.
10
11 **3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda:** A draft consent agenda was circulated prior to the meeting. After
12 having confirmed that all councilors had read the consent agenda materials. The following items were
13 included in the consent agenda:
14
15 PART 1 - Minutes of Prior Council Meetings
16 a. June 18, 2021
17 b. Motions and Actions Items Arising from the Minutes
18 PART 2 - Reports
19 b. Committee Reports
20 i. Executive Committee

- 21 ii. Patient Relations
- 22 iii. Quality Assurance:
- 23 A. QA Panel
- 24 B. CP Panel
- 25 C. QA Subcommittee
- 26 iv. ICRC
- 27 v. Registration
- 28 vi. Governance/HR Committee
- 29 vii. Audit/Finance/Risk Committee

30 PART 3 – Correspondence

- 31 a. Ontario Association of Optometrists

32

33 Moved by C. Grewal and seconded by M. Eltis **to adopt the consent agenda.**

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Motion carried

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36 Council discussed the June 18, 2021, minutes, and the Executive Committee report.

37

38 The Vice-President asked for an apology for language used in the March meeting regarding the work of
39 the Audit/Finance/Risk Committee. A similar request had also been made at the June meeting, though it
40 was not noted in the June minutes.

41

42 Council asked for clarity on the staffing anomalies related to salaries that were noted in the June
43 minutes. J. Jamieson noted this was related to changes in senior leadership. Any further questions about
44 personnel would be discussed in camera.

45

46 In addition, Council asked about the President’s stipend and charges for stakeholder engagement
47 meetings.

48

49 It was clarified that the Governance/HR Committee reviewed the President’s stipend and then passed
50 the item to the Audit/Finance/Risk Committee, which will be developing a policy in 022 regarding
51 compensation for the role of President.

52

53 It was further clarified that membership fees for stakeholder groups account for some of the funds in
54 this line item.

55

56 Council discussed a section of the Executive Committee report that detailed the Vice-President
57 contacting the Ministry of Health directly. P. Quaid and J. Jamieson spoke about the role of
58 spokespeople at the College and the appropriate process for sending questions to the Ministry –
59 through the President and Registrar.

60

61 The Vice-President requested that the Executive Committee report be revised to reflect the Registrar
62 asked the Ministry of Health questions related to conflict of interest and job action, as well as presenting
63 a legal opinion on the job action to the Ministry.

64

65 **Action Item:** Staff to revise the Executive Committee report to reflect that the Registrar asked the questions
66 regarding conflict of interest and the ongoing job action, and not the Vice-President. The revised Executive
67 Committee report will be brought back to the December Council meeting.

68 **4. Registrar’s Report**

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70 J. Jamieson presented the Registrar’s report, providing operational updates. P. Quaid also provided
71 updates during the Registrar’s Report.

72
73 Council asked questions regarding the President’s updates, specifically stakeholder meetings regarding a
74 single, Canadian Entry-to-Practice exam.

75
76 Council also asked about the College website project, specifically regarding backup and testing. It was
77 confirmed that offsite backup is used and that various stakeholders, including the public, will be invited
78 to test the new website prior to launch.

79
80 Council discussed the ongoing issue of a possible single Canadian entry-to-practice exam and the
81 positions from other Canadian jurisdictions.

82
83 Council asked for more details on new registrant numbers and how COVID affected membership (i.e.,
84 retirement etc.). H. Jibry noted there was a larger number of retirements at the start of the year, but not
85 significantly different than previous years. Numbers would be provided to Council later in the meeting.

86
87 Council discussed the job action and clarified the issue of optometrists providing urgent care. P. Quaid
88 noted that what constitutes ‘urgent’ involves professional judgement. The responsibility is on the
89 practitioner to ensure the patient is seen by a care provider.

90
91 Council noted that if the job action continues for months, the College should be cognisant of a possible
92 increase in complaints.

93
94 **5. IN CAMERA Session: Legal Opinion**

95 In accordance with 7 (1.1) of the Health Professions Procedural Code (HPPC), Council will go in
96 camera under Section 7(2)(e) of the HPPC, which is Schedule 2 to the Regulated Health Professions
97 Act to receive a legal opinion.

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99 Moved by A. Nurani and seconded by C. Grewal **to have the meeting go in camera.**

Motion carried

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Moved by W. Ulakovic and seconded by M. Eltis **to have the meeting go out of camera.**

Council took a break and returned at approximately 11:25 a.m.

6. Motions Brought Forward from Committees:

a. Executive Committee – [Research Grant Panel](#)

Moved by K. Biondi and seconded by L. Christian **to approve the establishment and funding of a Research Grant Panel as outlined in the briefing note.**

Council asked about the selection process for the member-at-large role, which is appointed by the Registrar.

J. Jamieson clarified that, should Council approve the motion, the next step would be to develop a framework for the process. Council was being asked to approve in principle, and the Executive Committee would determine specifics, such as appointment process and term limits. The first three roles – President, Vice-President and Council member – are bound by their terms on Council.

160 It is also clarified that the Terms of Reference discussed in the briefing note are in development and
161 would need to be ratified by the new panel.

162
163 Council further discussed how term limits for the three Council roles may create turnover on the panel;
164 consideration should be made for succession and ensuring continuity of decision-making.

165
166 Council discussed the fifth role (from the originating committee) and how this role would work on a
167 rotating based on the nature of the grant proposal.

168
169 It was determined the following revisions be made:

- 170
171 a. Under the “Process” description, revise the first point to end after the word “proposals” and
172 remove the text “from members of the College (research candidate).”
173 b. To change the role of “member at large” to “researcher at large.”
174 c. To remove the “Originating Committee” member role.

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176 Moved by N. Shah and seconded by S. Allen **to approve the motion as amended.**

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178 **Motion carried**

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180 **b. Quality Assurance Committee**
181 **i. Clinical Practice Panel – [OPR 7.12 Patients with Amblyopia](#)**

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183 C. Grewal presented the revisions that were made to OPR 7.12 since the previous Council meeting,
184 including revisions to developmental history and case history.

185
186 R. Kniaziew noted a motion was required to go over time.

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188 Moved by R. Kniaziew and seconded by M. Eltis **to extend the Council meeting.**

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190 **Motion carried**

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192 Council continued to discuss the revisions. Additional wording changes were suggested: revising the first
193 sentence in the description to include “and/or” ahead of “interocular difference”; and including a
194 disclaimer in opening of the OPR that clarifies, in cases where patients are minors, optometrists should
195 ensure parents/guardians are included in the discussion regarding treatment and care.

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197 Council also discussed the circumstances in which this therapy is covered by OHIP for minors.
198 Professional members clarified that follow-up appointments are covered, vision therapy is not.

199
200 C. Grewal noted that the CPP continues to review the recommendation to move standards to the
201 beginning of the OPR.

202
203 Moved by W. Ulakovic and seconded by M. Eltis **to approve updates to OPR 7.12 with the two revisions**
204 **as noted.**

205 **Motion carried**

206
207 Council is reminded they will receive a survey regarding in-person vs virtual meetings and COVID vaccine
208 requirements for in-person meetings. The survey results will be reviewed by the Executive Committee
209 on October 7.

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211 Regarding the survey, Council noted their opinions could change between September and December.
212 P. Quaid indicated that the survey could be re-circulated should the COVID situation change in the
213 following months.

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215 **12. List of Acronyms**

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217 **11. Dates of Upcoming Council Meetings**

- 218 • December 10, 2021
219 • Friday, January 21, 2022
220 • Friday, March 25, 2022
221 • Friday, June 24, 2022
222 • Friday, September 16, 2022
223 • Friday, December 9, 2022

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225 **13. Adjournment:** Moved by M. Eltis and seconded by S. Allen **to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m.**

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227 **Motion carried**