



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
November 5, 2018 - Teleconference
APPROVED**

November 5, 2018

Attendance:

Dr. Pooya Hemami, President
Dr. Richard Kniaziew, Vice President
Dr. Patrick Quaid, Treasurer
Dr. Linda Chan
Ms. Maureen Chesney
Dr. Bill Chisholm
Dr. Patricia Hrynchak
Mr. Bashar Kassir
Mr. Hsien Ping (Albert) Liang

Dr. Dino Mastronardi
Dr. Kamy Morcos
Dr. Christopher Nicol
Dr. Areef Nurani
Ms. Ellen Pekilis
Mr. Brian Rivait
Mr. John Van Bastelaar

Regrets:

Ms. Luisa Morrone

Staff:

Dr. Paula Garshowitz, Registrar
Ms. Hanan Jibry

Mr. Justin Rafton

1 **1. Call to Order:** Dr. Hemami called the meeting to order at 9:10 p.m. Dr. Hemami welcomed everyone
2 in attendance, including guests, to the meeting. Dr. Garshowitz performed a roll call; all Council
3 members were present except Ms. Luisa Morrone.
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5 **2. Adoption of the Agenda:** A draft agenda was circulated prior to the meeting. No new items were
6 added to the agenda.
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8 Moved by Mr. Rivait and seconded by Mr. Liang **to adopt the agenda.**

Motion carried

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11 **a. Conflicts of Interest:** Dr. Hemami asked Council members if anyone had a conflict of interest with any
12 item on the meeting's agenda. No conflict of interest was declared.
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14 **3. Alternate Entry to Practice Exam:**

15 Dr. Hemami prefaced the discussion by briefly outlining the Executive Committee's recommendation for
16 Council: to approve the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) Examination as an Alternate
17 Standards Assessment required for Registration in Ontario.
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19 Dr. Garshowitz informed Council that she had stepped down as the chair of Optometry Examining Board
20 of Canada (OEBC) due to a conflict of interest with her role as Registrar of the College but remained on

21 its Board of Directors. As such, she could remain for Council’s discussion. The OEBC met prior to the
22 teleconference and elected Dr. Lorne Ryall, Registrar of the Manitoba Association of Optometrists, as
23 the new chair.

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25 Dr. Hemami informed both councilors and guests that the meeting would now move in-camera, as per
26 Section 7(2)(b) and (e) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*.

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28 **IN CAMERA SESSION:** In accordance with Section 7(1.1) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*
29 (HPPC), Council will go in camera under Section 7(2)(b) and (e) of the HPPC, whereby financial, personal
30 or other matters may be disclosed of such a nature that the harm created by the disclosure would
31 outweigh the desirability of adhering to the principle that meetings be open to the public and to give
32 instructions to, or receive opinions from, the solicitors of the College.

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34 Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Chisholm **to have the meeting go in camera.**

Motion carried

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36 *Guests left the meeting*

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Moved by Dr. Quaid and seconded by Dr. Morcos to have the meeting go out of camera.

Motion carried

113 *Guests returned to the meeting.*

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115 Dr. Garshowitz performed a roll call; all Council members were present except Dr. Patricia Hrynchak and
116 Ms. Luisa Morrone.

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118 Councilors commended the Registration Committee for their thorough review in which they compared
119 the NBEO examination to the OEBC examination. Dr. Quaid explained that the Committee reviewed the
120 NBEO Content Matrix, general skills assessed and had Committee representatives attend the Clinical
121 Skills Examination (CSE-Part III) in-person. Based on the information provided by the Registration
122 Committee and the Executive Committee, Council believed it had enough information regarding the
123 examination comparison to make a decision on this recommendation.

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125 Council discussed that accepting an alternate entry to practice exam such as NBEO would also provide
126 candidates with improved choice, accessibility and flexibility. This was specifically noted as in the past
127 eight years (2010-17), over 44% of new registrants that are graduates of ACOE optometry schools
128 received their optometric education in US optometry schools. As the Regulation requires the College to
129 approve an entry to practice exam, it is key that as a third party needs to be used, that an agreement is
130 established to ensure an exam that is robust, valid and defensible as well as fair and accessible.

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132 Dr. Hemami noted that feedback had been received from stakeholders, notably FORAC and OEBC,
133 requesting that Council postpone its decision to allow time for these and other stakeholders to respond
134 and provide additional information. In the interest of fairness and transparency, Council agreed to delay
135 the decision on the recommendation to allow for a 2-week timeframe in which stakeholders could be
136 consulted and allowed to provide any submissions on this matter.

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138 A further Council meeting would be planned for late November/early December, depending on Council
139 member availability.

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141 **4. Dates of Upcoming Council Meetings (2018–2019)**

142 a. Friday, January 18, 2019

143 b. Wednesday, April 24, 2019

144 c. Monday, June 24, 2019 & Tuesday June 25, 2019

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146 **13. Adjournment:** Moved by Mr. Rivait and seconded by Mr. Liang **to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m.**

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Motion carried