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**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Meeting of the Council
January 31, 2018 – Teleconference
Minutes – Approved**

7 A meeting of the Council of the College of Optometrists of Ontario was held by teleconference on
8 January 31, 2018. The teleconference call-in numbers were posted on the College website to allow the
9 public to join the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 8:45 p.m.

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1. **Attendance:** Dr. Bill Chisholm, Dr. Linda Chan, Dr. Pooya Hemami, Dr. Patricia Hyrnchak, Mr. Bashar Kassir, Mr. Albert Liang, Dr. Dino Mastronardi, Ms. Irene Moore, Dr. Kamy Morcos, Dr. Christopher Nicol, Dr. Areef Nurani, Ms. Ellen Pekilis, Dr. Patrick Quaid. Mr. Brian Rivait, and Mr. John Van Bastelaar.

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Absent: Ms. Maureen Chesney, Dr. Richard Kniaziew, and Ms. Luisa Morrone

Staff: Dr. Paula Garshowitz, Registrar, Ms. Hanan Jibry, Assistant Registrar

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2. **Agenda:** To provide Council with an update on recent national meetings held January 25-27, 2018 in Ottawa.

20 Moved by I. Moore and seconded by B. Rivait **to accept the agenda.**

21 **Motion carried**

22 There were no conflicts of interest to declare by councillors.

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3. **National Meeting Update:** Dr. Hemami informed Council that he attended the national meetings, accompanied by Dr. Patrick Quaid and College staff.
- OEBC:** The OEBC meeting was held on January 25th. A by-law amendment, requiring the OEBC board to be comprised of no fewer than 67% plus one to be a Registrar, Council member or designated regulatory representative, was passed. In the elections for OEBC Board members, ON, QC, AB (2) and MB obtained regulatory seats on the board. Existing directors from NL, PE and SK will also serve as regulatory representatives for those provinces. The newly revised board is expect to look at governance, finances and transparency as its first orders of business.
- OLF:** The OLF was held on January 26th and focussed this year on leadership training and cultural competency. OLF is a good opportunity for the College to interact with the associations, Schools and other optometric organizations.
- FORAC:** The FORAC meeting was held on January 27th. It heard reports from the various stakeholders and learned about a new language proficiency test that has been developed by Touchstone Institute in collaboration with the IOBP. While this new, profession specific assessment is currently being used to assess students heading into the bridging program, it is proposed that this test be used to assess language proficiency at the credential assessment phase. Identification of language deficiencies at this earlier juncture will lead applicants to improve their language skills prior to undergoing the IGOEE and the bridging program. FORAC asked if applicants could challenge the test off shore; that is something that is being considered. FORAC was provided with an update on the credentialing process and there was discussion regarding the addition of the TPA component to the IGOEE. FORAC confirmed that until the

45 IGOEE was updated that successful applicants would have go to bridging. Once there is
46 sufficient data, the entire process will be reviewed to ensure it is fair and transparent.

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48 Council was informed that once the revised OEBC board is in place, that there would be a
49 request for an independent review of the OEBC exam. It was confirmed that other provinces,
50 including Ontario have similar concerns about the exam. OEBC must improve its transparency
51 to its members. Council agreed that it was premature to discuss the membership contribution
52 to OEBC until it sees the progress of the newly composed Board. The College will express that it
53 will be looking to observe the spring OSCE administration. OEBC members are working towards
54 a national solution with OEBC rather than ON developing its own exam.

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56 **4. Adjournment**-The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Chisholm, seconded
57 by Dr. Quaid.