



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
April 20, 2020
APPROVED**

Attendance

Dr. Patrick Quaid
Dr. Richard Kniaziew
Ms. Suzanne Allen
Ms. Kathryn Biondi
Dr. Linda Chan
Dr. Lisa Christian
Mr. Ravnit Dhaliwal
Dr. Camy Grewal

Ms. Winona Hutchinson
Mr. Bashar Kassir
Mr. Howard Kennedy
Mr. Albert Liang
Dr. Lindy Mackey
Dr. Annie Micucci
Dr. Christopher Nicol
Dr. William Ulakovic
Dr. Marta Witer

Regrets:

Mr. Narendra Shah

Staff:

Ms. Maureen Boon, Registrar/CEO
Ms. Hanan Jibry
Ms. Amber Lepage-Monette

Ms. Deborah McKeon
Mr. Justin Rafton
Dr. David Wilkinson

1 **1. Call to Order:** P. Quaid called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., expressing wishes that everyone has
2 been well during unprecedented times and noting how much has changed since Council last met in
3 January.

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5 Housekeeping items, including muting, how to participate in the meeting, are clarified.
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7 P. Quaid welcomed three new Council members – two public members and one professional member –
8 Ms. Kathryn Biondi, Mr. Ravnit Dhaliwal, and Dr. Lindy Mackey. The new members were invited to
9 provide a short introduction of themselves and their work.

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11 **2. Adoption of the Agenda:** A draft agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.

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13 Moved by A. Micucci and seconded by C. Grewal **to adopt the agenda.**

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15 **Motion carried**

16 **a. Conflicts of Interest:** Dr. Quaid asked Council members if anyone had a conflict of interest with any
17 item on the day's agenda.

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19 C. Nicol and R. Kniaziew noted they may have possible conflicts with agenda Item 8 regarding changes to
20 Council term limits. C. Nicol noted he will excuse himself from the discussion if needed. R. Kniaziew
21 noted he would like the changes to be on a going-forward basis and not retroactive.

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23 P. Quaid provided a brief description of the Consent Agenda process for new Council members and
24 explained how to remove items for further discussion, if needed.

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26 **3. Adoption of the Consent Agenda:**

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28 PART 1 - Minutes of Prior Council Meetings

29 a. January 17, 2020

30 b. Motions and Action Items Arising from the Minutes

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32 Moved by R. Kniaziew and seconded by L. Christian **to adopt consent agenda.**

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Motion carried

34 **4. Financial Matters**

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36 Auditor Ildiko Junira Cleary presented the draft audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending
37 December 31, 2019.

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39 I. Junira Cleary indicated that the auditors worked closely with the Audit/Finance/Risk Committee on the
40 current draft financial statements and highlighted areas where there have been changes from previous
41 years to provide additional detail and clarity. The auditors also included a note regarding COVID-19 and
42 how this situation affected fair market value under current economic conditions.

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44 Council asked for clarification about the increase of expenditures on page 5 re: Jurisprudence exam over
45 previous years and about a difference in the net assets from 2018-2019, which appeared to be tied to
46 legal fees re: Essilor.

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48 The increase in expenditures re: Jurisprudence exam was related to the development of an online
49 Jurisprudence seminar, which was implemented in May 2019. The auditors clarified that the
50 appropriated funds were established for this kind of expenditure and that the legal fees were an
51 appropriate use of appropriated funds and were therefore not represented in operating expenses.

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53 *I. Junira Cleary left the meeting.*

54

55 Moved by C. Grewal and seconded by A. Liang **to approve the audited financial statements for the**
56 **fiscal year ending December 31, 2019.**

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Motion carried

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60 P. Quaid handed the meeting over to Registrar M. Boon for an update on the Annual Report and the
61 Registrar's Report.

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64 **5. Annual Report**

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66 **6. Registrar’s Report**

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68 M. Boon provided her report via PowerPoint presentation.

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70 The 2019 Annual Report will be finalized and released next week; the intention this year was to release
71 the report earlier, making it easier to read in a more engaging format, and a focus on the three
72 regulatory areas of work vs committees. Next year, the Annual Report will align with the Strategic Plan.

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74 M. Boon provided the Registrar’s Report, which focused on a COVID-19 update to Council, including
75 timelines, key decisions, and communications to the profession. The presentation touched on the key
76 regulatory areas have been affected during COVID-19: launching an online Jurisprudence exam, which
77 will be offered in June; investigations have slowed due to suspension of legal processes and fewer
78 patient visits; QA assessments were suspended early in the COVID-19 timeline. At this time, it is felt
79 optometrists can meet continuing education requirements with online opportunities and so CE is
80 continuing, though the College continues to monitor the situation. The QA review is ongoing.

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82 Regarding operations – the College has moved to a remote office. In terms of the profession, the College
83 is focusing on recovery planning, specifically infection control and personal protective equipment and
84 patient management

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86 P. Quaid recognized the work done with the Ontario Association of Optometrists during COVID-19,
87 including daily phone calls and coordinated messaging.

88
89 P. Quaid thanked the Registrar and staff for the work they have been doing to continue College business
90 during COVID.

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92 **7. Motions Brought Forward from Committees:**

93 **a. CPP: OPR 4.2**

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95 As per a motion in January, CPP reviewed OPR 4.2 with specific attention to the fact that there are
96 common omissions in the Short Record Assessments (SRA) regarding monocular acuities. For many
97 patients, however, it is not clinically indicated and not truly an omission.

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99 Council discussed concerns regarding children and whether monocular acuity should be included for all
100 school-age children.

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102 The panel considered this when making the recommendation. It was felt case history would address the
103 issue for children.

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105 Council discussed whether the motion needs to be brought back to the panel for a change in wording
106 related to children. M. Boon noted that a change to a motion would normally warrant returning to the
107 panel, however, given the chair was present at the Council meeting a revision could be made today.

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109 C. Grewal confirmed the new wording of the final bullet point in the motion could be revised to read
110 “accommodative function when clinically indicated *and for school-age children.*”

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L. Chan agreed with the revised wording.

Moved by L. Chan and seconded by H. Kennedy **to amend the motion.**

Motion carried

Moved by W. Hutchinson and seconded by A. Liang **to approve the revised motion.**

Motion carried

b. Governance – Committee Appointments and Executive Election

The College had requested certain competencies for new public members (governance and finance) and the chair noted the new ministry appointees have these background experiences.

As per the briefing materials, the Governance/HR Committee is recommending several committee appointments to replace departing member John Van Bastelaar.

Moved by R. Kniaziew and seconded by C. Grewal **to appoint, effective immediately, L. Mackey (Discipline Committee), K. Biondi (Discipline, Governance/HR and Patient Relations), and R. Dhaliwal (Discipline and Quality Assurance Committee (QA Panel)).**

Motion carried

P. Quaid noted that for the Executive Committee election, only one public member name was submitted. H. Kennedy was acclaimed to the Executive Committee.

Moved by W. Hutchinson and seconded by L. Chan **to approve H. Kennedy's acclamation to the Executive Committee.**

Motion carried

8. Governance Committee: Upcoming bylaw circulation

A brief update was provided on the work that has happened to date to revise the by-laws, with a focus on changes to term limits and the Executive Committee. The Governance Committee is proposing an 18-year total limit on Council and a 21-year limit on committee involvement. New term limits are intended to encourage new members to join Council, not to limit participation on Council or with the College.

The Governance Committee is proposing that these changes be retroactive. Without retroactive status, the changes would not come into effect until 2041. Although some members expressed concerns re: conflict of interest, A. Micucci noted that every professional member will be affected by the term limit changes and the committee would like members to consider the issue from an objective perspective.

Changes are also being proposed for the Executive Committee, including further limiting the committee's capacity and appointing some roles (other than President and Vice-President) based on competence-based selection criteria.

158 Proposed changes will be presented at the June Council meeting to approve for circulation.

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160 In response to a question, A. Micucci confirmed that the communication role that the Executive
161 Committee now plays with other optometric bodies would be taken over by the Registrar and President.

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163 **9. Proposed Council Meeting Dates 2021**

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165 P. Quaid noted the proposed meeting dates for 2021 are intended to move meetings so they are more
166 aligned with annual quarters.

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168 **10. List of Acronyms**

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

- 171 • Monday April 20, 2020
- 172 • Thursday June 25, 2020
- 173 • Friday Sept. 25, 2020
- 174 • Friday December 4, 2020

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176 **12. Adjournment:** Moved by L. Chan and seconded by A. Micucci **to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m.**

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Motion carried

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