



**College of Optometrists of Ontario  
Council Meeting  
November 23, 2020  
APPROVED**

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**Attendance:**

Dr. Patrick Quaid (President)  
Dr. Richard Kniaziew (Vice-President)  
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  
Dr. Lindy Mackey  
Dr. Annie Micucci  
Dr. Christopher Nicol  
Mr. Narendra Shah  
Dr. William Ulakovic  
Dr. Marta Witer

**Regrets:**

**Staff:**

Ms. Hanan Jibry  
Ms. Amber Lepage-Monette

Mr. Ira Teich, Interim Registrar and CEO

1 **1. Call to Order:** Dr. Quaid called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.  
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3

4 **2. Adoption of the Agenda:** A draft agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.  
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6 Moved by R. Dhaliwal and seconded by S. Allen **to adopt the agenda.**  
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**Motion carried**

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9 **a. Conflicts of Interest:** Dr. Quaid asked Council members if anyone had a conflict of interest with any  
10 item on the day's agenda. None declared.  
11

**Motion carried**

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13 **3. Motions Brought Forward:**

14 **a. Formalization of the Executive Committee Election Process**  
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16 P. Quaid provided a brief overview of the motion being discussed – to approve the process for Executive  
17 Committee elections, with the chair roles of Governance/HR and Audit/Finance/Risk (AFR) committees  
18 included.  
19

20 Moved by N. Shah and seconded by R. Kniaziew **to approve the process for Executive Committee**  
21 **elections going forward on an annual basis and to maintain this process unless specifically voted on**  
22 **otherwise in future by Council.**

23

24 P. Quaid then opened the meeting to questions and discussion.

25

26 Council asked to clarify the timing of the Executive Committee election and approval of the committee  
27 slate; the Governance/HR by-law review had intended to move the election to December.

28

29 P. Quaid clarified that, because the proposed by-law revisions did not pass at the September Council  
30 meeting, the existing by-laws are in effect and state that the election happens at the first meeting of the  
31 year. A special Council meeting will be called in January to hold the election and approve the slate of  
32 committee appointments. This would also allow the two new Council members to be included in the  
33 voting process.

34

35 M. Witer asked that the proposed change to move the election to December be considered for next  
36 year.

37

38 Council discussed the need for specific expertise on the Governance/HR and AFR committees with  
39 regard to the chair role. It was clarified that the expertise should be on the committee but does not  
40 need to be held by the chair.

41

42 A. Micucci clarified the earlier point regarding timing of the election – the proposed change to move the  
43 election to December was included in the two housekeeping by-laws that are being reviewed at a later  
44 date.

45

46 In addition, A. Micucci asked to clarify the briefing note, which stated “...with the remaining members of  
47 each committee being appointed by the Governance/HR Committee.” The committee recommends the  
48 slate, but Council approves the appointment.

49

50 Council sought clarity on the nomination process and how many positions one can run for.

51

52 Council asked about the voting process and noted that, as per the wording in the briefing note, the  
53 President and Vice-President cannot be the chairs of the Governance/HR and AFR committees.

54

55 It was clarified that public members may run for the roles of President and Vice-President.

56

57 Council suggested that the election process be broader: rather than voting for specific roles, to vote in  
58 the President, Vice-President and three members-at-large and then have the Executive Committee  
59 determine the roles.

60

61 P. Quaid clarified the intention was to allow Council to have a voice in who serves in the roles.

62

63 N. Shah noted the idea of a broader election process had been discussed, but that from a governance  
64 perspective, it is preferred to have chairs elected to those roles.

65  
66 P. Quaid confirmed with Council that the wording regarding running for more than one position; K.  
67 Biondi suggested the wording read “no more than one position at a time.” No objections were raised by  
68 Council.

69  
70 B. Kassir asked about the Executive Committee being only five members and whether there was any  
71 consideration to have all of Council represented through both the Governance/HR and AFR committees.  
72 It was noted that this is not under consideration at this time and would represent a significant time  
73 commitment on the part of Council members, who serve on other committees as well.

74  
75 P. Quaid asked for a show of hands in favour of the motion.

**Motion carried**

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78 **4. Adjournment:** Moved by W. Hutchinson and seconded B. Kassir **to adjourn the meeting at 12:39 p.m.**

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80 **Motion carried**