



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
December 13, 2024**

Attendance:

Dr. Mark Eltis, President
Dr. Camy Grewal, Vice President
Ms. Suzanne Allen
Dr. Lisa Christian
Dr. Pooya Hemami
Ms. Lisa Holland
Mr. Howard Kennedy
Dr. Richard Kniaziew

Dr. Dino Mastronardi
Dr. Kamy Morcos
Dr. Patrick Quaid
Mr. Narendra Shah
Mr. Toye Soile
Mr. Andre Tilban-Rios
Dr. William Ulakovic
Dr. Abraham Yuen

Regrets

Ms. Esther Jooda

Staff:

Mr. Joe Jamieson, Registrar & CEO
Ms. Hanan Jibry, Deputy Registrar
Mr. Chad Andrews
Mr. Edward Cho

Ms. Jaslin Facey
Ms. Debbie Lim
Ms. Adrita Shah Noor

Guest:

Ms. Julia Martin, legal counsel
Dr. Wes McCann, observer
Dr. Thomas Noël, observer

- 1 **1. Call to Order/Attendance:** Dr. Eltis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2
3 Dr. Eltis read the land acknowledgement and public interest statement.
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5 **2. Adoption of the Agenda:** A draft agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.
6
7 *Moved by Dr. Yuen and seconded by Dr. Morcos to **adopt the agenda.***

Motion carried

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10 **2a. Conflict of Interest Declaration:** Dr. Eltis asked Council members if anyone has a conflict of interest
11 with any item on the day's agenda.

12
13 No conflicts of interest were declared.

14
15 **3. Committee Updates:** The Committee Chairs presented updates on their respective committees.

16
17 **4. Consent Agenda:** A draft consent agenda was circulated prior to the meeting. The following items
18 were included in the consent agenda:

19
20 PART 1 - Minutes of Prior Council Meetings

21 a. September 13, 2024

22 b. Motions and Action Items Arising from the Minutes

23 PART 2 - Reports

24 b. Committee Reports

25 i. Executive

26 ii. Patient Relations

27 iii. Quality Assurance:

28 iv. ICRC

29 v. Registration

30 vi. Discipline

31 vii. Governance/HR Committee

32 viii. Audit/Finance/Risk Committee

33

34 Council asked about the Registration Report and inquired about reason for the meeting with the
35 University of Waterloo. Ms. Jibry explained that the Office of the Fairness Commissioner had an
36 outstanding item for the College, which was to try and reduce the time taken for internationally
37 educated optometrists to get through the ASOPP program. While the School owns the ASOPP program,
38 College senior leadership met with the Director of the school to get his feedback on the matter. Council
39 asked about the passing rate of the IGOEE, and Dr. Yuen replied that 10% of IGOEE candidates have
40 been able to immediately challenge the entry-to-practice board exam.

41

42 Council asked about the Executive Report and inquired about what phase scope expansion is in, and
43 who is leading the discussions surrounding scope expansion. Dr. Eltis replied that the tripartite working
44 group has been working together with the Ministry and we are currently in a waiting period.

45

46 *Moved by Dr. Morcos and Dr. Hemami to adopt the consent agenda.*

47

Motion carried

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49 **5. Registrar's Report**

50

51 Mr. Jamieson presented his report which touched on data security and included staff updates.

52

53 Council inquired about some of the research milestones and asked for clarification around the climate
54 change and the landscape study on health professions. Mr. Andrews clarified initial conversations have
55 taken place about the impact regulators can have in the area of climate change. Mr. Andrews also
56 clarified that there is research being done on the health profession landscape in Ontario, with a focus on

57 the structures, practices and perceptions that are prevalent across the various health regulatory bodies
58 across the province.

59
60 Council took a break at 10:09 a.m.

61
62 The Council meeting resumed at 10:27 a.m.

63
64 **6. Presentation from RBC Dominion Securities**

65
66 Mr. Santos presented on the College’s financials.

67
68 *Moved by Dr. Hemami and seconded by Dr. Quaid to move in-camera.*

Motion carried

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70
71 **IN CAMERA Session: Legal Matters**

72 In accordance with Section 7(2)(b) of the Health Professions Procedural Code, which is Schedule 2 to the
73 *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, Council went in camera to discuss financial matters.

74
75
76 **Council went in-camera at 10:37 a.m.**

77
78
79 **Council went out of camera at 10:57 a.m.**

80
81 Dr. Eltis stated Council went in-camera to discuss financial matters.

82
83 **7. Motions Brought Forward from Committees**

84
85 **a) Audit/Finance/Risk**

86
87 **i. Approval of the proposed 2025 budget**

88
89 Mr. Shah presented the motion.

90
91 *Moved by Mr. Tilban-Rios and seconded by Dr. Grewal to approve the proposed 2025 budget.*

92
93 Council asked for clarification about the video campaign listed under the Strategic Initiatives. Mr.
94 Jamieson explained that within the Strategic Plan there is one area for outreach to stakeholders and the
95 public. The plan is to interview doctors of optometry with the goal of raising awareness of optometry to
96 the public, and encourage post-secondary students to consider the profession as a career path.

97 All in favour
98 **Motion carried**

99
100 **ii. Approval of the proposed general reserve funds for 2025**

101
102 Mr. Shah presented the motion.

103 *Moved by Mr. Tilban-Rios and seconded by Dr. Ulakovic to **approve the proposed general reserve funds***
104 ***for 2025.***

All in favour
Motion carried

107
108 **iii. Approval of the revised allocations of internally restricted funds**

109
110 Mr. Shah presented the motion.

111
112 *Moved by Dr. Yuen and seconded by Dr. Quaid to **approve the revised allocations of internally restricted***
113 ***funds.***

All in favour
Motion carried

116
117 **iv. Approval of the draft Finance Policy – Fee Review**

118
119 Mr. Shah presented the motion.

120
121 *Moved by Ms. Allen and seconded by Mr. Kennedy to **approve the draft Finance Policy – Fee Review.***

122
123 Dr. Morcos asked for clarification about the burn rate calculations and asked if a future fee increase
124 would include membership and corporation fees. Mr. Shah confirmed that both fees would be included
125 in the calculation.

All in favour
Motion carried

128
129 **b) Registration**

130
131 **i. Approval of the Additional Credentials Policy, and the use of the following designations or their**
132 **historical equivalents: - For ABO: Diplomate, American Board of Optometry or Dipl. ABO or Board**
133 **Certified, American Board of Optometry - For OVDR: FOVDRA**

134
135 Dr. Yuen presented the motion.

136
137 *Moved by Ms. Allen and seconded by Dr. Grewal to **approve the Additional Credentials Policy, and the***
138 ***use of the following designations or their historical equivalents: For ABO: Diplomate, American Board***
139 ***of Optometry or Dipl. ABO or Board Certified, American Board of Optometry – For OVDR: FOVDRA.***

140
141 Council asked if the diplomate for the FAAO is the same as the FAAO designation. Dr. Yuen confirmed
142 that they are two separate designations. Council requested that the Registration committee consider
143 adding the diplomate of FAAO to the list of recognized designations. Council also asked if our College
144 recognizes any specialties in optometry like Alberta does. Dr. Yuen said the College has not approved
145 any specialties when the question was asked about the Canadian College of Specialties in Optometry
146 (CCSO).

147
148 Mr. Jamieson clarified that our legislation does not allow for any title of specialist to occur. Additionally,
149 if someone has received an approved credential which can be verified by the College, then this College

150 would be in the position to allow the practitioner to use that. The College licenses to a baseline, and it is
151 important to not create tiers of optometrists. However, it is in the public interest for the College to
152 affirm an optometrist has education in an area like vision therapy, and to help the public find an
153 optometrist with that education to meet their needs. Mr. Jamieson also clarified that our College has
154 not verified anything with the CCSO. Mr. Jamieson also discussed the importance of the public register
155 and verified that the designations will not be found on the public register, because the public needs to
156 know that the baseline requirement for registration is the licensure we currently have.

157 All in favour
158 **Motion carried**

159
160 **8. Recognition of Dr. Kniaziew and Dr. Mastronardi**

161
162 Dr. Eltis thanked Dr. Kniaziew and Dr. Mastronardi for their extensive service on Council.

163
164 **8. Dates of Upcoming Council Meetings**

- 165 a. Friday, January 10, 2025
- 166 b. Friday, February 7, 2025
- 167 c. Friday, March 7, 2025
- 168 d. Friday, June 13, 2025
- 169 e. Friday, September 19, 2025
- 170 f. Friday, December 12, 2025

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172 **9. List of Acronyms**

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174 **10. Governance Guide: Robert's Rules**

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176 **11. Council Feedback Survey**

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178 **12. Adjournment:** *Moved by Dr. Morcos and seconded by Dr. Hemami to adjourn the meeting at 11:25*
179 *a.m.*

180 **Motion carried**