



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
January 20, 2023**

Attendance:

Ms. Suzanne Allen
Ms. Kathryn Biondi
Dr. Lisa Christian
Dr. Mark Eltis
Dr. Camy Grewal
Mr. Pooya Hemami
Ms. Lisa Holland
Mr. Bashar Kassir
Mr. Howard Kennedy

Dr. Richard Kniaziew
Mr. Dino Mastronardi
Dr. Kamy Morcos
Dr. Areef Nurani
Mr. Narendra Shah
Mr. Toye Soile
Dr. William Ulakovic
Mr. Andre Tilban-Rios
Dr. Abraham Yuen

Guests:

Ms. Julia Martin, Legal Counsel

Staff:

Mr. Joe Jamieson, Registrar & CEO
Mr. Chad Andrews
Mr. Edward Cho
Ms. Jaslin Facey

Ms. Hanan Jibry
Ms. Debbie Lim
Ms. Shelby Sargo
Ms. Adrita Shah Noor

- 1 **1. Call to Order/Attendance:** Dr. Nurani called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.
2
3 **2. Adoption of the Agenda:** A draft agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.
4
5 **2a. Conflict of Interest Declaration:** Dr. Nurani asked Council members if anyone has a conflict of
6 interest with any items on the day's agenda.
7
8 No conflicts of interest were declared.
9
10 *Moved by Ms. Allen and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew to **adopt the agenda.***
11
12 Dr. Ulakovic requested an amendment be made to the agenda regarding an update on FORAC following
13 the elections.
14 **Motion carried**
15
16 Mr. Jamieson introduced the election and delegated the responsibility of overseeing and moderating the
17 process to Mr. Andrews.
18

19 **3. Election of the Officers for 2023 Council year**

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21 In line with the Executive Committee terms of reference, which were shared with Council, Mr. Andrews
22 highlighted the five positions to be voted on in sequence, beginning with President and then moving to
23 Vice-President, Chair of the Governance-HR Committee, Chair of the Audit/Finance/Risk Committee, and
24 Member-at-Large. He also reminded Council that, due to the ability of members to self-nominate for
25 multiple positions, the ballot for any given position would depend on the member elected in the
26 previous position (for instance, the election result for President may have an impact on the ballot for
27 Vice-President). Mr. Andrews informed Council that according to the by-laws, there are no self-
28 nominations from the floor.

29

30 Council asked for clarification about where they could find the rule regarding self-nominations. Mr.
31 Jamieson clarified that it is found in section 7.02 of the College's by-laws.

32

33 President:

34

35 Dr. Hemami withdrew his candidacy for the President role and asked to maintain candidacy for
36 subsequent roles.

37

38 Dr. Eltis and Dr. Nurani each presented their candidacy to Council.

39

40 Mr. Andrews announced that **Dr. Eltis was elected to the position of President.**

41

42 Vice-President:

43

44 Dr. Grewal withdrew her name from the ballot for Vice-President.

45

46 Dr. Hemami and Dr. Ulakovic each presented their candidacy to Council.

47

48 Mr. Andrews announced that **Dr. Hemami was elected to the position of Vice-President.**

49

50 Chair of the Governance-HR Committee:

51

52 Dr. Christian and Dr. Grewal each presented their candidacy to Council.

53

54 Mr. Andrews announced that **Dr. Christian is elected to the position of Chair of the Governance-HR
55 Committee.**

56

57 Chair of the Audit/Finance/Risk Committee:

58

59 Mr. Andrews announced, due to the Executive Committee having reached its limit of professional
60 members, that the next two positions would be filled by public members.

61

62 Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Shah each presented their candidacy to Council.

63

64 Mr. Andrews announced **Mr. Shah was elected to the position of Chair of the Audit/Risk/Finance**
65 **Committee.**

66

67 Member-at-Large:

68

69 Ms. Allen and Mr. Kennedy each presented their candidacy to Council.

70

71 The voting resulted in a deadlock, which required a lot to resolve. Mr. Andrews assigned Ms. Allen and
72 Mr. Kennedy each a number, then proceeded to draw a number from a random number generator.

73

74 Mr. Andrews announced that **Mr. Kennedy was elected to the position of Member-at-Large.**

75

76 Mr. Andrews thanked all candidates for submitting their names and participating in the election,
77 congratulating those who were elected to positions on the Executive Committee for 2023.

78

79 Council took a break at 9:40 a.m.

80

81 **4. Motions Brought Forward by Committees**

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83 **a. Governance/HR**

84 **i. Appointment of the Committee Chairs and Committee Members**

85

86 The Governance-HR Committee moved into a break-out room to finalize the committee slates based on
87 the Executive election results.

88

89 Council reconvened at 10:58 a.m.

90

91 Dr. Grewal presented a PowerPoint presentation that reflected the proposed slate of members for the
92 College's committees in 2023.

93

94 Council inquired about the lack of female representation on the Audit/Finance/Risk Committee. Mr.
95 Andrews said that volunteer and council committee preferences could account for the skewed numbers.
96 Dr. Grewal offered to add Ms. Allen to the A/F/R committee to account for female representation, and
97 Ms. Allen agreed.

98

99 *Moved by Dr. Yuen and seconded by Ms. Biondi to approve the proposed committee membership for*
100 **2023 with the proposed amendment as set out by the Governance-HR Committee.**

101

Motion carried

102

103 **Other Business**

104

105 Dr. Eltis invited Dr. Ulakovic to provide the update on FORAC that he requested at the beginning of the
106 meeting.

107

108 Council asked if they should go in-camera prior to discussing the update. Mr. Jamieson stated that going
109 in-camera requires a discussion of finances, matters of personnel and/or matters that would affect the
110 College’s reputation. Ms. Martin reminded Council that the issue arose in a public forum and therefore
111 she recommends dealing with the issue in a public forum, and that the criteria for going in camera is not
112 met.

113

114 Dr. Ulakovic provided an update on the letter from FORAC and explained that the resolution of the letter
115 depended on the election of the President. Dr. Ulakovic said he would follow up with FORAC and explain
116 that the newly elected President, Dr. Mark Eltis, will now represent Ontario at the FORAC.

117

118 **5. Upcoming Council Meetings**

119

120 Mr. Jamieson discussed several incoming changes to legislation that could affect the profession of
121 optometry, and provided updates on future Council events as shown on the agenda.

122

123 **6. Adjournment**

124

125 *Moved by Mr. Tilban-Rios and seconded by Ms. Allen to **adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m.***

126

Motion carried