



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
June 24, 2022**

Attendance:

Dr. Areef Nurani, President
Dr. William Ulakovic, Vice President
Ms. Suzanne Allen
Ms. Kathryn Biondi
Dr. Lisa Christian
Dr. Mark Eltis
Dr. Camy Grewal
Dr. Pooya Hemami
Ms. Lisa Holland

Mr. Bashar Kassir
Mr. Howard Kennedy
Dr. Richard Kniaziew
Dr. Lindy Mackey
Dr. Dino Mastronardi
Mr. Narendra Shah
Mr. Olutoye Soile
Mr. Andre Tilban-Rios
Dr. Abraham Yuen

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
Ms. Shelby Sargo

Guests:

Dr. Nafeesa Jalal, N. Jalal Global Consulting
Mr. Marcus Sconci, BDO Canada
Mr. Michael Upenieks, BDO Canada

- 1 **1. Call to Order/Attendance:** Dr. Nurani called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.
2 Dr. Nurani read the land acknowledgement and public interest statement.
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4 **2. Adoption of the Agenda:** A draft agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.
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6 It was noted there will be an additional motion from the Quality Assurance Sub-Committee.
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8 *Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Eltis to **adopt the agenda.***
9 **Motion carried**
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11 **2a. Conflict of Interest Declaration:** Dr. Nurani asked Council members if anyone has a conflict of
12 interest with any item on the day's agenda. None were declared.
13
14 **3. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training:** Dr. Nafeesa Jalal presented the DEI training.
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16 **4. Committee Updates:** The Committee Chairs presented updates on their respective Committees.

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

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21 PART 1 - Minutes of Prior Council Meetings

22 a. December 10, 2021

23 b. March 23, 2022

24 c. Motions and Actions Items Arising from the Minutes

25 PART 2 - Reports

26 b. Committee Reports

27 i. Executive Committee

28 ii. Patient Relations

29 iii. Quality Assurance:

30 A. QA Panel

31 B. CP Panel

32 iv. ICRC

33 v. Registration

34 vi. Discipline

35 vii. Governance/HR Committee

36 viii. Audit/Finance/Risk Committee

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38 *Moved by Dr. Eltis and seconded by Dr. Grewal to adopt the consent agenda.*

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Motion carried

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41 Dr. Kniaziew pulled out the Registration report and raised concerns about a lack of accommodations for
42 the national exam. He also questioned whether applicant answers are compared to the cohort or to a
43 minimum standard. Dr. Ulakovic replied that the standards for entry to practice are set at a minimum
44 standard and all applicants are required to adhere to that standard. Dr. Nurani said the Registration
45 Committee will take it back to their committee meetings. Dr. Mastronardi reminded Council that the
46 original need for the limit on taking the exam was that some candidates were attempting the exam
47 numerous times.

48

49 Dr. Hemami pulled out the Audit/Finance/Risk Committee report and discussed the revenue line in
50 comparison to the expenditure line. Dr. Hemami pointed out that the expenditure line seems to be
51 quarterized, which results in a dissimilar expenditure-revenue ratio, and asked why the revenue is
52 higher than the expenditures. Mr. Kennedy, the chair of the committee, stated that revenue comes in at
53 an annual period. Ms. Lim, the staff committee manager, stated that they changed the representation of
54 the income for this year to the total revenue of the different fees rather than splitting the revenue over
55 twelve months, resulting in a front-loaded revenue number in the report.

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57 Dr. Hemami also asked if the year-end expenses will be close to the budgeted amount, regarding the
58 stakeholder engagement line, and if the frontloading of the amount is because of the higher expenses in
59 the first quarter. Ms. Lim responded by saying the majority of membership fees, which are included in
60 stakeholder engagement, are processed on June 1.

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62 **6. Registrar's Report**

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Mr. Jamieson presented the Registrar’s report.

Ms. Jibry provided an update on Registration and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group.

Mr. Kassir commented on the Strategic Plan by stating he would prefer the presence of a public member alongside the President, Vice President, Registrar and senior staff when working on the strategy. Mr. Kassir asked how long the Registration Committee spends on the Registration process. Ms. Jibry stated that staff handle the majority of the registration process, unless there is a change in process or referral from the Registrar at which point the Registration Committee is consulted.

8. Motions Brought Forward from Committees continued

d) Clinical Practice Panel Committee

i. Update to OPR section 4.7 Infection Control in the Optometric Office

Dr. Christian presented the motion to update the OPR section 4.7 regarding Infection Control in the Optometric Office.

Moved by Mr. Tilban-Rios and seconded by Mr. Kassir to approve the update to OPR section 4.7 Infection Control in the Optometric Office.

Motion carried

c) Executive Committee

ii. Appointment of Lisa Holland to the Gov-HR, QA, and FTP

Dr. Nurani presented the motion to appoint Lisa Holland to the Gov-HR, QA, and FTP Committees.

Moved by Dr. Eltis and seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve the appointment of Lisa Holland to the Gov-HR, QA, and FTP Committees.

Motion carried

b) Registration Committee

i. 2022 Optometry Examining Board of Canada Written Exam and OSCE

Dr. Ulakovic presented the motion to establish 2022 Optometry Examining Board of Canada Written Exam and OSCE as one of two standard assessment examinations for registration purposes.

Moved by Dr. Eltis and seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve the 2022 Optometry Examining board of Canada Written Exam and OSCE.

Motion carried

ii. 2022 National Board of Examiners in Optometry Exam

Dr. Ulakovic presented the motion to approve the 2022 National Board of Examiners in Optometry Exam

109 as a standard examination assessment for registration purposes.

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111 *Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Mr. Tilban-Rios to approve the 2022 National Board of*
112 *Examiners in Optometry Exam.*

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Motion carried

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115 **iii. 2022 Jurisprudence Exam**

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117 Dr. Ulakovic presented the motion to approve the 2022 Jurisprudence Exam for registration purposes.

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119 *Moved by Dr. Yuen and seconded by Ms. Biondi to approve the 2022 Jurisprudence Exam.*

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Motion carried

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122 Council stopped for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

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124 Council resumed at 1:00 p.m.

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126 **7. Financial Matters**

127 Mr. Sconci and Mr. Upenieks from the audit firm BDO Canada presented the draft audited financial
128 statements for 2021.

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130 Council asked about a missing number from the cash flow statements and the auditors clarified there
131 was an update between the version in the Briefing Book and the version the auditors were presenting.

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133 Council also asked about the decrease in the deferred revenue which is linked to membership. Mr.
134 Upenieks responded by saying the number could be affected by other streams. Ms. Lim added that the
135 deferred revenue is lower in 2021 because of the discount on membership fees for 2022.

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137 Council also inquired about the increase in year over year for the Quality Assurance Committee. Ms. Lim
138 responded by saying the numbers are reflective of the SRA and increased activity due to COVID-19.

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140 **8. Motions Brought Forward from Committees continued**

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142 **a) Audit/Finance/Risk**

143 **i. Audited financials for year-end December 31, 2021**

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145 Mr. Kennedy presented the motion to approve the draft audited financial statements for year-end
146 December 31, 2021.

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148 *Moved by Mr. Tilban-Rios and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew to approve the audited financials for year-end*
149 *December 31, 2021.*

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Motion carried

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152 **ii. Approval of the reappointment of BDO Canada as financial auditors for year 2022**

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154 Mr. Kennedy presented the motion to reappoint BDO Canada as the financial auditors for the fiscal year
155 2022.

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157 *Moved by Dr. Yuen and seconded by Dr. Grewal to approve the reappointment of BDO Canada as*
158 *financial auditors for the fiscal year 2022.*

159 **Motion carried**

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161 **iii. Finance Policy – Reserve Funds**

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163 Mr. Kennedy presented the motion to approve the Finance Policy for Reserve Funds.

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165 *Moved by Dr. Eltis and seconded by Ms. Allen to approve the Finance Policy for Reserve Funds.*

166 **Motion carried**

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168 **c) Executive Committee**

169 **i. College Strategic Plan**

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171 Dr. Nurani presented the motion to approve the College Strategic Plan.

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173 Mr. Kassir noted he would not support the Strategic Plan as he has issues with the vision and mission
174 statements, as well as the approach to the reforms coming from government. Mr. Kassir noted he would
175 have preferred to have the opportunity to discuss the plan with fellow Council members rather than
176 over e-mail.

177
178 *Moved by Mr. Tilban-Rios and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew to approve the College Strategic Plan.*

179 **1 against**
180 **(1 public member)**
181 **Motion carried**

182 The President did not ask for a show of hands for those against.

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184 **9. Dates of Upcoming Council Meetings**

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186 Dr. Nurani discussed the next Council meetings.

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188 **10. List of Acronyms**

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190 **11. Adjournment:** *Moved by Dr. Eltis and seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the meeting at 1:42 p.m.*

191 **Motion carried**