



**College of Optometrists of Ontario  
Council Meeting  
June 23, 2023**

**Attendance:**

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

Dr. Richard Kniaziew  
Dr. Dino Mastronardi  
Dr. Kamy Morcos  
Mr. Narendra Shah  
Mr. Olutoye Soile  
Mr. Andre Tilban-Rios  
Dr. William Ulakovic  
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. Bonny Wong

**Guest:**

Ms. Julia Martin, legal counsel

- 1 **1. Call to Order/Attendance:** Dr. Eltis called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.  
2 Dr. Eltis 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 *Moved by Dr. Yuen and seconded by Mr. Kennedy to **adopt the agenda.***  
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8 Dr. Kniaziew requested to add an in-camera item to discuss freedom of information.  
9 **Motion carried**  
10  
11 **2a. Conflict of Interest Declaration:** Dr. Eltis asked Council members if anyone has a conflict of interest  
12 with any item on the day's agenda.  
13  
14 No conflicts of interest were declared.  
15  
16 **3. Recognition of Bashar Kassir**  
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18 Dr. Eltis thanked Mr. Kassir for his dedication to Council and acknowledged the end of his term as a  
19 Council member.

20  
21 **4. Committee Updates:** The Committee Chairs presented updates on their respective committees.  
22

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

- 25  
26 PART 1 - Minutes of Prior Council Meetings  
27 a. December 9, 2022 (in camera)  
28 b. March 31, 2023  
29 c. Motions and Action Items Arising from the Minutes  
30 PART 2 - Reports  
31 b. Committee Reports  
32 i. Executive  
33 ii. Patient Relations  
34 iii. Quality Assurance:  
35 iv. ICRC  
36 v. Registration  
37 vi. Governance/HR Committee  
38 vii. Audit/Finance/Risk Committee  
39

40 Council discussed several items in the consent agenda, including the availability of COPE credits in the  
41 French language, exemption from the required patient hours for Quality Assurance, and asked for  
42 clarification on several points in the Registration Committee report.

43  
44 *Moved by Dr. Morcos and Mr. Kennedy to adopt the consent agenda.*

**Motion carried**

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47 **6. Registrar's Report**  
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49 Mr. Jamieson presented the Registrar's Report which included information on by-law changes, the lease  
50 agreement, and how the College will proceed with posting Council videos on Youtube.

51  
52 Mr. Jamieson explained Council needed to move in-camera to address three items: to receive legal  
53 advice regarding the conflict of interest from the March Council meeting, Dr. Kniaziew's inquiry  
54 regarding freedom of information, and for Mr. Shah to address the Audit/Finance/Risk Committee  
55 report with respect to the College investment firm.

56  
57 *Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Ms. Allen to go in camera.*

**Motion carried**

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59  
60 **IN CAMERA Session: Legal Advice Regarding Conflict of Interest raised at March 2023 Council Meeting**  
61 In accordance with Section 7(2)(b) of the Health Professions Procedural Code, which is Schedule 2 to the  
62 Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991

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64 Council moved **in camera at 9:45 a.m.**

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Council moved **out of camera at 10:17 a.m.**

Council adjourned for a break at 10:18 a.m.

Council resumed at 10:41 a.m.

Mr. Jamieson announced Council was out of camera, and stated that according to by-law 11.02, no motion was advanced to find that Dr. Eltis is in a conflict of interest. The second matter that was discussed in-camera was an inquiry that was made regarding a freedom of information request, and the advice legal counsel provided was that the College is not an agency that is required under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to respond to provide the requested information.

## **7. Motions Brought Forward from Committees**

### **a) Registration**

Dr. Yuen introduced Mr. Kim Allen, CEO of the Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC). Mr. Allen joined the meeting via Zoom and made a presentation associated with the requested member contribution referenced in the second motion for Registration and answered questions. Mr. Allen then left the meeting.

#### **i. The 2023 Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) written exam and OSCE as one of two standards assessment examinations set or approved by the College for registration purposes**

Dr. Yuen presented the motion for the 2023 Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) written exam and OSCE.

*Moved by Mr. Kennedy and seconded by Dr. Hemami to approve the 2023 Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC) written exam and OSCE as one of two standards assessment examinations set or approved by the College for registration purposes.*

**Motion carried**

112 **ii. Providing the requested member contribution of \$30/member or \$84,120 to OEBC. Once approved,**  
113 **half the requested funds will be disbursed to OEBC with the remaining balance to be disbursed once**  
114 **the Registration Committee is satisfied with the launch of the live patient stations in the Fall 2023**  
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116 Dr. Yuen presented the motion for providing the requested member contribution of \$30/member of  
117 \$84,120 to OEBC.

118  
119 *Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Ulakovic to approve the provision of the requested member*  
120 *contribution of \$30/member or \$84, 120. Once approved, half the requested funds will be disbursed to*  
121 *OEBC with the remaining balance to be disbursed once the Registration Committee is satisfied with*  
122 *the launch of the live patient stations in the Fall 2023.*

123  
124 Council touched on the developing issue associated with NBEO, and it was suggested that Council hold  
125 off on making the motion at this time. Dr. Yuen requested to defer the motion until the fall when there  
126 is time to address the new information that was provided to Council.

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128 **Dr. Eltis called for a vote for all in favour of the motion to provide the requested member contribution**  
129 **of \$30/member or \$84, 120 to OEBC.**

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None in favour  
All against  
**Motion defeated**

134 **iii. The 2023 National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) exam as an alternate standards**  
135 **assessment examination set or approved by the College for registration purposes.**

137 Dr. Yuen presented the motion for the 2023 National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) exam as  
138 an alternate standards assessment examination set or approved by the College for registration  
139 purposes.

141 *Moved by Dr. Kniaziew seconded by Dr. Grewal to approve the 2023 National Board of Examiners in*  
142 *Optometry (NBEO) exam as an alternate standards assessment examination set or approved by the*  
143 *College for registration purposes.*

**Motion carried**

146 **iv. To approve the 2023 Jurisprudence exam for registration purposes**

148 *Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Ms. Allen to approve the 2023 Jurisprudence exam for*  
149 *registration purposes.*

**Motion carried.**

152 Mr. Jamieson suggested moving to the motions further down the agenda as the meeting was ahead of  
153 schedule.

## 155 **b. Governance/HR**

157 **i. To approve edits to sections 3.02, 3.04 and 3.10 of the bylaws (related to financial processes)**

159 *Moved by Dr. Grewal and seconded by Dr. Hemami to **approve edits to sections 3.02, 3.04 and 3.10 of***  
160 ***the bylaws (related to financial processes).***

161 **Motion carried**

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163 **ii. To approve edits to section 7.02 of the bylaws (related to nominations in the Executive Committee)**

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165 *Moved by Dr. Morcos and seconded by Dr. Hemami to **approve edits to section 7.02 of the bylaws***  
166 ***(related to nominations in the Executive Committee).***

167  
168 Council inquired about the details of the timeline and suggested wording in the by-laws to address what  
169 happens if there are no candidates or if one withdraws. Mr. Andrews clarified the complexities of  
170 running the elections and suggested an alternate wording of the motion that addresses those concerns.

171  
172 Dr. Christian clarified that the motion will be amended to include an exception that refers to a position  
173 vacancy occurring within the 15-day timeline.

174  
175 Council to approve the motion as amended and discussed.

176 **Motion carried**

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179 **iii. To approve edits to section 7.04 of the bylaws (related to the term limits of the President and Vice**  
180 **President)**

181  
182 *Moved by Dr. Hemami and seconded by Dr. Yuen to **approve edits to section 7.04 of the bylaws (related***  
183 ***to the term limits of the President and Vice President).***

184  
185 Council inquired about when the amendment comes into effect and whether it is immediate, or the end  
186 of the current term. Dr. Christian clarified the amendment includes an extension of the President term  
187 only until the January Council meeting when the Executive elections occur.

188 **Motion carried**

189  
190 **iv. To approve edits to section 9.03 of the bylaws (related to the temporary suspension of a Council**  
191 **member)**

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193 *Moved by Mr. Kennedy and seconded by Dr. Yuen to **approve edits to section 9.03 of the bylaws***  
194 ***(related to the temporary suspension of a Council member).***

195  
196 Council discussed the motion and Dr. Christian clarified that the current by-law states that the power to  
197 temporarily suspend a Council member lies with the Registrar and President. The proposed change to  
198 the by-law will give the power to the Executive Committee instead.

199 **Motion carried**

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202 **v. To approve edits to sections 18.03 and 22.03 of the bylaws (related to non-payment suspensions)**

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204 *Moved by Dr. Grewal and seconded by Dr. Morcos to **approve edits to section 18.03 and 22.03 of the***  
205 ***bylaws (related to non-payment suspensions).***

Motion carried

207  
208 **c. Executive**

209  
210 **i. Approval of the appointment of Esther Jooda to the Discipline, ICRC, and Patient Relations**  
211 **Committees**

212  
213 Dr. Eltis presented the motion for the appointment of Esther Jooda to the Discipline, ICRC, and Patient  
214 Relations Committees.

215  
216 *Moved by Dr Eltis and seconded by Dr. Grewal to **approve the appointment of Esther Jooda to the***  
217 ***Discipline, ICRC, and Patient Relations Committees.***

Motion carried

218  
219  
220 Council adjourned for lunch at 11:25

221  
222 Council resumed at 12:51pm

223  
224 **8. Financial Matters**

225  
226 **a. Presentation from the Auditors**

227  
228 BDO Canada presented the audited financial statements for the financial period ending December 31,  
229 2022 via Zoom.

230  
231 Mr. Shah asked if it was completed remotely and suggested a hybrid approach for next year's audit.

232  
233 **a. Audit/Finance/Risk Committee**

234  
235 **i. Approval of the audited financials for year-end December 31, 2022**

236  
237 Mr. Shah presented the motion for approval of the audited financials for year-end December 31, 2022.

238  
239 *Moved by Dr. Hemami and seconded by Ms. Allen to **approve the audited financials for year-end***  
240 ***December 31, 2022.***

Motion carried

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242  
243 **ii. Approval of the reappointment of BDO Canada as financial auditors for year 2023**

244  
245 Mr. Shah presented the motion for the approval of the reappointment of BDO Canada as financial  
246 auditors for year 2023.

247  
248 *Moved by Dr. Grewal and seconded by Dr. Ulakovic to **approve the reappointment of BDO Canada as***  
249 ***financial auditors for year 2023.***

Motion carried

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**iii. Approval of College investment firm**

Mr. Shah presented the motion for the approval of RBC Dominion Securities as the College investment firm.

*Moved by Dr. Morcos and seconded by Dr. Grewal to **approve RBC Dominion Securities as the College investment firm.***

Council inquired about the status of the new contract, and Mr. Shah said it is open-ended.

**Motion carried**

**10. Dates of Upcoming Council Meetings**

- a. Wednesday, June 28, 2023
- b. Friday, September 15, 2023
- c. Friday, December 8, 2023

**11. List of Acronyms**

**12. Governance Guide: Robert’s Rules**

**13. Council Feedback Survey**

**14. Adjournment:** *Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Grewal to **adjourn the meeting at 1:04 p.m.***

**Motion carried**