



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
September 16, 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. 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

Guest:

Ms. Julia Martin, legal counsel

1 **1. Call to Order/Attendance:** Dr. Nurani called the meeting to order at 8:58 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 *Moved by Dr. Grewal and seconded by Dr. Yuen to **adopt the agenda.***

Motion carried

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9 **2a. Conflict of Interest Declaration:** Dr. Nurani asked Council members if anyone has a conflict of
10 interest with any item on the day's agenda. None were declared.

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12 **3. Research Steering group Update:** Dr. Ulakovic provided an update on the progress of the Research
13 Steering Group.

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

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17 **5. 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. June 24, 2022
- 22 b. Motions and Action Items Arising from the Minutes
- 23 PART 2 - Reports
- 24 b. Committee Reports
- 25 i. Executive Committee
- 26 ii. Patient Relations
- 27 iii. Quality Assurance:
- 28 A. QA Panel
- 29 B. CP Panel
- 30 iv. ICRC
- 31 v. Registration
- 32 vi. Fitness to Practise
- 33 vii. Governance/HR Committee
- 34 viii. Audit/Finance/Risk Committee
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36 *Moved by Mr. Tilban-Rios and seconded by Dr. Ulakovic to adopt the consent agenda.*

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38 Council discussed the June minutes and Mr. Kassir indicated for lines 68-69 that he did not use the
39 wording “the professionals”, but instead was referring to the President, Vice President, Registrar and
40 senior staff. He requested the wording be adjusted to reflect this. Mr. Kassir also noted that on line 179
41 he was not given the opportunity to vote against the motion as the President only asked for a show of
42 hands for those in favour of the motion. He requested that this be reflected in the minutes as well.

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44 Council discussed the Clinical Practice Panel report and Mr. Kassir questioned the reasoning behind the
45 Executive Committee asking CPP to investigate the matter of transfer of care in emergency examinations
46 and intra-professional care. Dr. Nurani responded by saying they wanted to address a policy gap that
47 existed in the OPR.

48

49 Dr. Hemami asked for clarification in the Registration report regarding the three students who are able
50 to challenge the entry-to-practice exam directly in 2022. Ms. Jibry explained that those three students
51 attempted the IGOEE in 2021.

52

53 Dr. Hemami inquired about the live skills testing stations for the OEBC exam and asked if the
54 Registration Committee knew there was only going to be three stations when the Committee has made
55 it clear they would prefer four stations. Dr. Ulakovic responded by saying that the Committee wants the
56 OEBC exam to move away from models for the assessment of technical skills and move towards live
57 patient examinations. He noted they have been in discussions with OEBC about providing live patients.

58

59 Dr. Hemami asked about whether the FORAC recommendation to implement an increase in member
60 levy was discussed at the latest Committee meeting. Dr. Ulakovic stated the Registration Committee did
61 not feel they would entertain the increase in levy when the funds are not needed nor are they confident
62 the funds would be returned if not used. Dr. Nurani noted that other provinces have lower registration
63 fees so while it is equal for all optometrists in Canada, it is not equitable.

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Motion carried

6. Registrar’s Report

Mr. Jamieson presented the Registrar’s Report, which touched on the Strategic Plan: Implementation Plan and the Annual Report.

Council adjourned for a break at 10:22 a.m.

Council resumed at 10:43 a.m.

Ms. Biondi commented on the reporting aspect of the Strategic Plan and noted the overlapping of strategies. She suggested considering a way to consolidate the information and using the CPMF as a reporting tool and to reduce workload.

Dr. Kniaziew noted his concern about the number of practice assessments that required a Complete Practice Assessment, and the number that required remediation. He asked for the graduation year of those who required remediation. Dr. Nurani explained that the data show that registrants under 5 years from graduation and 25 years after graduation, most often require remediation.

Mr. Soile echoed what Ms. Biondi said and asked about the frequency of reporting regarding the Strategic Plan. Mr. Jamieson said the CPMF will be used as the annual reporting tool, and when something is achieved in the CPMF, staff can also correlate it for Council by identifying how it relates to the completion of the objective in the strategic plan.

Regarding the DEI project, Dr. Hemami asked for clarification about the scope of Communications Section 5F. Mr. Jamieson responded by saying that staff will gauge the College’s responses by assessing the social impact in Ontario and deciding when it is appropriate for a regulatory college to comment.

Ms. Allen asked about which platform the practice advisories will be hosted on. Mr. Jamieson explained that it will be a standalone document distributed to membership, most likely electronically and will be used as a reflective tool for their practice. With respect to applicants, they will receive the advisories as part of the welcome package. The intent is to issue one major initiative every year regarding the practice advisories, while engaging right touch regulation and honouring members’ practices.

Dr. Christian asked about whether cultural safety would be present in the DEI plan. Mr. Jamieson noted cultural safety and humility will be part of the plan.

Mr. Soile referred to the member newsletter and asked if it could be for the public as well. Mr. Jamieson said the public-facing newsletter would be less clinical and would speak more to the patient experience, such as children returning to school and being cognisant of their eye care and vision needs.

Dr. Yuen asked how the College will increase the diversity in the range of applicants that enter the profession and if that involves implementing quotas. He also inquired about the plan to reach undergraduate students regarding the profession of optometry, while being mindful of the number of staff at the College. Mr. Jamieson said quotas would not be implemented, but rather strategies to provide accessibility and to provide encouragement to isolated communities to come forward. He also

111 explained that reaching out to secondary students would be achieved through existing pathways, such
112 as the university fairs.

113

114 **7. Motions Brought Forward from Committees continued**

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116 **a) Quality Assurance Panel**

117 **i. Approve IGOEE OSCE, OEBC OSCE, and NBEO Part III CSE (or any future practical exam that replaces 118 the CSE) serve as the College’s Practice Evaluation component.**

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120 Dr. Eltis presented the motion to have the IGOEE OSCE, OEBC OSCE, and NBEO Part III CSE (or any future
121 practical exam that replaces the CSE) serve as the College’s Practice Evaluation component.

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123 Moved by Dr. Hemami and seconded by Dr. Grewal to ***approve IGOEE OSCE, OEBC OSCE, and NBEO Part
124 III CSE (or any future practical exam that replaces the CSE) to serve as the College’s Practice Evaluation
125 component.***

126

127 Dr. Christian asked if the Committee had looked into the possibility of a member being denied by one of
128 the organizations if they had not taken the exam previously. Ms. Sargo stated the Committee worked
129 with all three organizations and that a referral letter would be sufficient for the member to take one of
130 the exams for the purpose of the practice evaluation component.

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132 Dr. Mastronardi asked if the plan would be to move forward with this or is the idea to create its own
133 program. Dr. Eltis responded by saying that due to the closing of the Vision Institute, there are no other
134 options, and the Committee intends to stick with the three programs as it provides options for our
135 members.

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Motion carried

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138 **b) Clinical Practice Panel Committee**

139 **i. Approve changes to OPR 6.1**

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141 Dr. Christian presented the motion to update the OPR section 6.1.

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143 *Moved by Dr. Grewal and seconded by Dr. Yuen to approve the update to OPR section 6.1.*

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Motion carried

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146 **ii. Approve changes to Emergency and Intra-Professional Care (OPR 4.2, 4.5, 4.8, 6.8)**

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148 Dr. Christian presented the motion to update the OPR Section Emergency and Intra-Professional Care.

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150 *Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Mastronardi to approve the OPR Section Emergency and
151 Intro-Professional Care.*

152

153 Mr. Kassir expressed concern about lowering the cost for the system and whether that would mean an
154 increase in cost for the patient. He commented that he does not support the motion because he would
155 prefer to see input from other stakeholders such as the Ministry, OHIP and patient groups. Dr. Christian
156 explained that if an optometrist provides a full eye exam, and an issue is outside their scope of practice
157 and they refer to someone else, that optometrist receiving the referral would not perform a full exam

158 and instead would just address the particular issue. She explained that the OPR was unclear on the
159 matter and it seemed the patient would have to undergo another full eye exam by the second doctor,
160 when the patient just needs the issue addressed. She added that excluding redundant exams and
161 procedures is standard practice across the healthcare continuum.

162 **Motion carried**
163 **(1 public member voted against)**

164 **c) Audit/Finance/Risk Committee**

165 **i. Approval of Finance Policy – Budgeting**

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167 Mr. Kennedy presented the motion to Approve the Finance Policy – Budgeting.

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169 *Moved by Dr. Grewal and seconded by Ms. Allen to **Approve the Finance Policy – Budgeting.***

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171 Ms. Biondi asked if the budget would be tabled at the December meeting for 2023. Mr. Jamieson
172 confirmed that is correct. Ms. Biondi noted it may be disruptive for the new council to work with a
173 budget that was approved by different people. Mr. Jamieson responded by saying that the College
174 operates on a fiscal year not an election cycle, from January and December.

175 **Motion carried**

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177 **ii. Approval of Finance Policy – Procurement of Goods and Services**

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179 Mr. Kennedy presented the motion Approval of Finance Policy – Procurement of Goods and Services.

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181 *Moved by Dr. Grewal and seconded by Dr. Yuen to **Approve the Finance Policy – Procurement of Goods***
182 ***and Services.***

183 **Motion carried**

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185 **d) Inquiries, Complaints and Reports**

186 **i. Approval of the Reporting Information to Relevant System Partners Policy**

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188 Dr. Mastronardi presented the motion to approve the Reporting Information to Relevant System
189 Partners Policy.

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191 *Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Grewal to **approve the Reporting information to Relevant***
192 ***System Partners Policy.***

193 **Motion carried**

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195 **8. Election and Appointment Process: Council, Committees and Executive**

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197 Mr. Andrews provided information on the upcoming elections and appointments involving Council,
198 Committees, and the Executive Committee.

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200 Dr. Christian inquired about the timing of the Executive Committee election and if it could be held in
201 December, when there is overlap with old and new Council members. Mr. Andrews said the early slate
202 announcements occur in January because the Executive Committee members' flexibility and time
203 constraints will be affected. Dr. Christian inquired about holding the Executive election in December. Mr.
204 Andrews responded that the Executive election process has a large amount of work involved. Mr.

205 Jamieson added that the new Council members are not members until January of the following year,
206 rendering them unable to vote, and unable to run for Executive.

207
208 Dr. Hemami inquired about the current Council election candidates and Mr. Andrews said they would be
209 announced soon.

210
211 Mr. Kassir asked if the College would have more expressive DEI language regarding gender equity. Mr.
212 Jamieson said not yet but perhaps modernization will encourage more diversity with the publicly
213 appointed members, rather than the elected members.

214
215 **9. Dates of Upcoming Council Meetings**

- 216 a. Friday, December 9, 2022
- 217 b. Friday, January 20, 2023
- 218 c. Friday, March 31, 2023
- 219 d. Friday, June 23, 2023
- 220 e. Friday, September 15, 2023
- 221 f. Friday, December 8, 2023

222
223 Dr. Nurani congratulated Ms. Allen on another 3-year appointment.

224
225 **10. List of Acronyms**

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227 **11. Governance Guide: Robert's Rules**

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229 **12. Adjournment:** *Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Mr. Kassir to adjourn the meeting at 11:28*
230 *a.m.*

231 **Motion carried**