Open Minutes

State Board of Professional Engineers

Date: May 29, 2019
Convened: 10:01 am
Adjourned: 12:46 pm
Location: Chicago Office

Members Present: James P. Schlichting, Chair
L. Duane Yockey, Vice-Chair
Brian Berg Jr, Member
Philip Kunz, Public Member
Sean Middleton, Member
John M. Whitt, Member

Member(s) Absent: Kevin Burke III, Member
Gale Jamison, Member
Richard M. Ray, Chair
Christy Crites, Member

Staff Present: Kyle Lazell, Design Licensing Manager
Chau Nguyen, IDFPR General Counsel
Eduardo Fernandez, IDFPR Prosecuting Attorney

Guests Present: Marlon Vogt, NCEES

Open Session:

I. Announcements,
   Correspondence,
   Guest comments

The Meeting was called to order at 10:01 am.
The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

Mr. Schlichting thanked everyone for attending and requested that
Mr. Vogt introduce himself.

Mr. Vogt thanked the Board for allowing him to attend and provided
an overview of NCEES as an organization.

He also shared that it is the goal of NCEES for a member of their
management team to visit each State Board to keep informed as to
the state specific "nuances" as well as to provide any support for
streamlining the licensure or regulatory processes.

Additionally, he said that there were two items that were discussed
at the NCEES Central Zone meeting and will be brought to the
national council for voting:
II. Review of Open Minutes

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 28, 2019 meeting.

Motion was made, seconded (Yockey/Berg) and passed to accept the open minutes of the meeting as written.

III. Old Business

A. Act/Rules Update

Mr. Nguyen shared that the sunset Statute Bill has been approved by the House and Senate and sent to the Governor’s desk for signature.

The draft for the Rule amendments are still on “hold.”

He also stated that SB1899 is effectively “dead.”

IV. Report from Subcommittees

A. Complaint Review Committee/Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Berg reported from the May 9, 2019 meeting.

Complaint Statistics based on recommendations from the March 21, 2019 meeting:

Architect: Opened 7, Closed 1, Referred 4
PE: Opened 17 Closed 1, Referred 3
LS: Opened 2, Closed 0, Referred 31
SE: Opened 3, Closed 2, Referred 4
PDF: Opened 0, Closed 0, Referred 0

Complaints currently under investigation:
Architect – 31
PE – 42
LS – 12
SE - 12
PDF – 1

Cases currently being prosecuted:
Architect – 9
PE – 22
LS – 8
SE – 11
PDF – 0
V. New Business

A. Report from NCEES Zone Meeting

Mr. Schlichting reported on the NCEES Zone Meeting. He provided a brief overview of main topics that were discussed:
- NCEES Finances
- Motions to be brought up at the Annual Meeting
- Zone finances to be restructured underneath the NCEES budget
- Engineers without Borders “partnership” with NCEES
- Elimination of Exemptions
- De-coupling of experience and examinations
- Computer Based Testing (CBT) examinations
- Continuation of Paper & Pencil PE exams to CBT changeover
- Education Committee
  – 8-hour max CE per day
  – Reduce general education requirement to 12 hours
- EPE Committee – 16-hour SE exam is a P.E. exam
- ACCA Committee disagrees with the EPE Committee’s idea
- Responsible Charge term discussed

B. Board Liaison comments from NCEES Central Zone Meeting

Mr. Lazell shared a few items that were discussed during the Member Board Executive sessions at the Zone meeting.

- Temporary license for military & their spouses
- Acceptance of Foreign EAC/ABET BS programs

C. Discussion of Decoupling Exam & Experience

Mr. Lazell shared that there were two items that he took away from the Zone meeting that was initially discussed at the 2018 Annual NCEES Meeting.

- De-coupling of experience and examinations
- Becoming “License” driven, not exam approval driven

Currently, all applicants who do not have an “approved program” are required to apply to the Department for education review and approval to sit for the examination(s) and/or for licensure.

There is a national push to change the regulatory board mindset of being “exam approval” driven, to being “license approval” driven.

Mr. Lazell said the thought is to allow all applicants to sit for the examination(s), prior to the education review. The examination(s) could be taken at the discretion of the applicant and would not need Board approval to do so. They would still be required to meet the educational and experience requirements when they apply for enrollment as an Engineer Intern or for Licensure as a Professional Engineer.

Mr. Lazell requested that the Board think and consider adopting this method and said that the Department plans to research this idea to
see what would be necessary to implement this for the Professional Engineer profession.

Mr. Lazell informed the Board that over the past few years, there has been an increased number of applicants who are running into one of two issues regarding the current experience rules.

The first issue is that there are several dual-degree (BS/MS) Engineering programs that confer both of the degrees at the same time; which currently as the Act & Rules specify, we could not grant experience credit for the MS degree as Section 12 of the Act and Section 1380.230 of the Rules states that the MS degree must be after the conferral of the BS degree.

He said the other issue is that applicants are working full-time in an engineering firm and concurrently are acquiring a post-graduate degree (MS or PhD) in Engineering at night. Currently Section 1380.230 of the Rules does not allow acceptance of concurrent experience (work experience and a post-graduate degree) for the experience.

Mr. Lazell asked the Boards’ thought on this topic and whether it was still a relevant rule to maintain – given that over the past 15+ years there has been a continual increase of online and distance programs available to applicants that they can complete at night & weekends and still be able to work full-time at an engineering firm.

The Board considered the information and reasoning behind it and determined it was best to discuss this later when all Board members are present.

Motion was made, seconded (Berg/Middleton) and passed to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2C (4) & (15) of the Open Meetings Act at 11:41 am.

Roll Call:
The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

A. Review of Closed Minutes
The Board reviewed the closed minutes of the March 28, 2019 meeting.

B. Application Review
The Board reviewed and made recommendations for 26 applications for licensure by examination and endorsement.
Motion to go into Open Session:
Motion was made, seconded (Yockey/Kunz) and passed to go into Open Session at 12:45 pm.

Recommendations:
Motion was made, seconded (Whitt/Berg) and passed to accept the recommendations made in Closed Session.

VII. Signatures
A. Action Sheets
The Board signed action sheets: 19-0752 through 0778

B. Travel Vouchers

VIII. Adjournment
Motion was made, seconded (Berg/Whitt) and passed to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 12:46 pm.