

**General Session Minutes
State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers
September 11, 2007**

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers met in its offices at 300 Capitol Street in Charleston, WV on September 11, 2007. Those present for all or part of the general session were:

Leonard J. Timms, Jr.	President
Edward L. Robinson	Vice-President
Bhajan S. Saluja	Secretary
Richard E. Plymale	Member
William E. Pierson	Member
Lesley L. Rosier-Tabor	Executive Director
Don W. Johnson	Board Investigator
Debra L. Hamilton	Legal Counsel

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of those who died on September 11th.

The Board meeting minutes of July 20, 2007 (both executive and general session) were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Saluja. Motion carried.

The Board budget summary for July and August 2007 was received and reviewed. A motion to approve the expenditures and purchasing card transactions was made by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Saluja. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosier presented the Executive Director's report and addressed all Board questions and comments. Ms. Rosier discussed her participation in recent events and presentations made to various groups since the last Board meeting, in addition to reviewing the office's schedule of upcoming activities. A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Saluja, approving attendance and travel for activities outlined in the Executive Director's report. Motion carried.

Ms. Rosier updated the Board on the upcoming October examinations. The number of people taking the Fundamentals Examination is down from the April 2007 exam administration, closer to historic levels. Pass rates continue to be a concern and President Timms discussed this issue with WVU and Fairmont administrators during recent visits. The Board will continue to monitor.

The 2008 renewal season is nearing completion. Third notices have been mailed. Notice of licenses and COA's having lapsed will be mailed the week of October 1st to the registrants failing to renew.

The 2007 NCEES Annual Meeting was held August 21-26, 2007 in Philadelphia, PA. President Timms, Board members Robinson and Pierson, staff members Rosier and Johnson attended the meeting. President Timms was installed as the Northeast Zone Vice-President. The Bachelor of Science plus 30 additional semester hours (BS + 30) requirement for licensure was discussed extensively. A motion to rescind the requirement failed to pass by a larger margin than it passed by at the 2006 NCEES Meeting. This indicates growing support for the measure. Details of what will be required in the additional 30 hours are still being developed.

Mr. Robinson moved to enter into executive session, seconded by Mr. Saluja. Motion carried. At the conclusion of the executive session, Mr. Plymale moved to enter into general session with a second by Mr. Pierson. Motion carried and the Board took the following actions:

1. Mr. Robinson moved that complaint C2008-1 be scheduled for hearing at the November Board meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried.
2. The Board directed counsel to contact respondent for further response on complaint C2008-2. (Robinson recused himself and absented the Executive Session during these discussions.)
3. Mr. Robinson moved that inquiry I2007-9 be received and filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried.
4. Mr. Plymale moved that Inquiry I2008-3 be received and filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pierson and carried.
5. Mr. Saluja moved that inquiry I2008-4 be received and filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Motion was seconded by Pierson and carried.
6. Based on a motion by Mr. Saluja, seconded by Mr. Pierson, the Board took the following actions on Special Cases for Board Action:
 - Wesley D. Hevener's PE exam application was approved for the October 2007 session.
 - Terrence W. Philbrick's request for comity was denied. Mr. Philbrick will be allowed to apply for comity after December 2, 2009 assuming no further disciplinary action during that time period.
 - Terry E. McMillen's request for reinstatement was approved.

Revisions to the WV Laws, Rules and Regulations were discussed. It was decided to develop a list of talking points covering the proposed changes for presentation at the WV EXPO in March.

President Timms provided a summary of his presentation to the Legislative Committee hearing regarding the PERD audit. Board members shared their feedback from the engineering community relative to the newspaper article.

Following the last Board meeting, a joint letter by the Board, the WV Fire Marshal's Office and the WV Home Inspectors Association regarding home inspection activities vs. engineering responsibilities was approved by all parties. The letter was mailed to Home Inspectors, Real Estate Brokers, Real Estate Appraisers and Mortgage Companies. A copy was submitted for consideration of publication in the state real estate magazine and will appear in the upcoming Board newsletter.

The Board received an e-mail discussing several items of concern regarding the Morgantown facility used by ELSSES for the April FE exam administration. The Board has forwarded this correspondence to ELSSES to address.

The Board has implemented a policy requiring someone who has failed an examination four or more times to provide evidence of additional training before being allowed to sit for another

examination. To date, the Board has received only one response to the announced change which involved an individual with a disability that potentially contributes to his failures. Special ADA accommodations can be made for examinees if they provide details to NCEES/ELSES prior to taking the examination. Ms. Rosier and Ms. Hamilton will follow-up with this exam candidate to discuss.

The Fee Waiver form for the Fundamentals Exam has been revised to reflect the one time only fee waiver. This Board decision is an attempt to raise the pass rates. Representatives from the Universities voiced a concern that students were taking the exam the first time to see what it was like and then preparing for it on the second attempt. The new policy will also permit eligible, part-time students to receive the one-time waiver.

President Timms reported he had met with Dean Cilento and other faculty members at WVU prior to the NCEES Annual Meeting. They discussed the recent pass rates on the engineering exams and what each felt needed to be done to improve them. President Timms told them that WVU Tech was adding a one hour course to the curriculum for the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam preparation. WVU was concerned about the NCEES Model Law change and the implications of adding 30 hours to the licensure requirement. The discussion will continue at the joint meeting in January 2008.

President Timms also met with President Dan Bradley from Fairmont State University. Dr. Bradley has an engineering background and currently serves on the ABET Board of Directors. He is supportive of the licensure process. Dean Bradley expects a lot of resistance to the BS + 30 but feels it is attainable. He is very interested in the opportunities for ABET and NCEES to work together to achieve common goals.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday November 29, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will take place in the Falcon Center Board Room on the Fairmont State University Campus located at 1201 Locust Avenue, Fairmont WV.

Upon motion by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Pierson, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The Board members will be compensated one day per diem plus travel expenses.

Leonard J. Timms, Jr., P.E.
Board President

Bhajan S. Saluja, P.E.
Board Secretary