

General Session Minutes
State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers
March 18, 2008

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers met in their offices at 300 Capitol Street in Charleston, WV on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. 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 9:05 a.m.

The Board meeting minutes of January 29, 2008 (both executive and general session) were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Plymale, seconded by Mr. Saluja. Motion carried.

The Board budget summaries for January and February 2008 was received and reviewed. A motion to approve the expenditures and purchasing card transactions was made by Mr. Saluja, seconded by Mr. Robinson. 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 by her and Mr. Johnson to various groups since the last Board meeting, in addition to reviewing the office's schedule of upcoming activities.

The previous examination results were reviewed. The change in the fee waiver does not seem to have had an impact on the pass rate.

The 2008 newsletter and status reports were mailed in early February. The Board has received several compliments on the articles, quality and information provided in the newsletter. The final draft of the new 2008 renewal mailer was reviewed as well, with no further comments or changes.

Mr. Pierson moved to enter into executive session, seconded by Mr. Plymale. Motion carried.

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

1. Mr. Plymale moved that complaint C2004-2 be scheduled for hearing since we have been unsuccessful in negotiating a Final Order. Motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried.

2. Mr. Robinson moved that the Board modify the Hearing Order on Complaint C2008-1 to reduce the financial penalty due to the respondent's situation. In return, the respondent must agree to not practice engineering in WV anytime in the future. Motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried.
3. Mr. Robinson moved to dismiss complaint C2008-10 if the respondent agreed to permanently surrender his WV PE and not practice in WV as he proposed in his response. Motion was seconded by Mr. Saluja and carried.
4. Mr. Plymale moved that inquiry I2008-16 be received and filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Mr. Robinson seconded and motion carried.
5. Mr. Pierson moved that Inquiry I2008-19 be received and filed as a Board-initiated complaint. Mr. Saluja seconded and motion carried. (Mr. Robinson recused himself and absented the Executive session during discussion.)
6. The Board directed counsel to use a third party collection company to assist in the collection of default judgments and complaint C2004-4.
7. The Board directed Ms. Rosier's to pursue hiring the recommended summer intern to assist with renewal processing.
8. Based on a motion by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Saluja, the Board took the following actions on Special Cases for Board Action:
 - James S. Gonda's request for comity was approved.
 - Charles T. Waltz's request for comity was approved.
 - James P. Westbrook's request for comity was approved.

President Timms updated the Board on his various NCEES activities, including progress on the recommended changes to the Model Rules/Model Law by the B+30 Task Force. The B+30 Taskforce is looking at changing the implementation date from 2015 to 2020. The Nebraska Board currently has the B+30 code revision before their legislature for approval. NCEES is actively studying computer based testing and plans to extend the 2008 task force for at least another year. Motions were approved at the recent NCEES Board meeting to begin negotiations with Egypt and Korea to offer the engineering licensing exams there. The Nevada Board has entered into an agreement to accept Canadian registrants to practice in Nevada. The Board will need to monitor Nevada registrants to be sure they meet our requirements.

Ms. Rosier commented on the Exam Administrator's Forum and the February NCEES Board of Director's meeting, both of which she attended. Both were excellent meetings, thanks in large part to the impressive level of staff commitment and organization.

The Northeast Zone meeting is scheduled for April 3-5, 2008 in Quincy, MA. President Timms, Board member Saluja, along with staff members Rosier and Johnson, are scheduled to attend.

NCEES' Center for Professional Engineering Educational Services is now offering transcript reviews for domestic schools which are not ABET accredited. The WV Board does not

understand or agree with this position and President Timms plans to explore the issue with NCEES leadership.

The outcome of the Board policy addressing excessive exam attempts by exam applicants was reviewed. Twenty plans were received during the FE exam application processing, most of which were of good quality. A few candidates were contacted by staff for additional detail. A copy of the new Educational Plan of Study form to be used for future exams in October 2008 and beyond was reviewed and no further comments received.

WVU Tech just completed their first formal FE exam preparation class which is part of their revised curriculum. The Board has agreed to work with Dr. Steven Leftwich, Chair of the WVUIT Civil Engineering Department, to evaluate the effectiveness of the class.

A copy of the detailed statistics of the NCEES October 2007 exam results was given to each Board member for review. The information contained within the notebooks will be discussed at the May Board meeting.

Council and staff were directed to prepare a draft of the proposed Engineering Rule revisions to be sent to the Board for review prior to the next meeting.

The Marshall University/WVU Tech agreement on offering a WVU Tech degree at the Marshall campus will be ending prior to Marshall receiving ABET approval. Students graduating in the interim may not be eligible for licensure. A statement addressing this will be developed and added to the application process for those candidates who fall into this category. Ms Rosier will develop a draft statement for Board review at the next meeting.

The Board had a request from a Marshall University graduate student asking for an Excel formatted copy of the current WV PE Roster. The mailing list will be used for thesis research addressing the availability of engineers in WV in the future. A motion was made by Mr. Robinson to provide the electronic list of WV PE's to the student with the agreement they would only be used for the study and will be destroyed upon completion of the project. No e-mail addresses will be provided. Motion was seconded by Mr. Plymale and carried.

The Board received notice from the Governor's office that Mr. Plymale has been re-appointed for another term on the Board. His new term will expire in 2012.

Preparation for the WV Equipment, Technology and Design Exposition is complete. The EXPO is scheduled for March 19th and 20th. In addition to the annual two-hour seminar presented by the Board, staff and Board members will also be assisting in the first annual recognition ceremony for those who passed the NCEES Principles and Practice Exam or Fundamentals of Engineering Exam in WV in 2007. This event is sponsored by the WV Society of Professional Engineers and will take place immediately following the Board's annual EXPO presentation scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, March 19, 2008. Board attendance was encouraged. President Timms will address the group.

Due to scheduling conflicts of two Board members and the possibility of not having a quorum, the July Board meeting date was moved from July 15th to July 22nd. Ms. Rosier will contact the Secretary of State's office with the modification.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. The meeting will take place at the PE Board office located at 300 Capitol Street, Charleston, WV.

Upon motion by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 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