

Board Meeting – February 22, 2005

The Board held a regular meeting on February 22, 2005, in the University Transportation Center Conference Room of the Crawford-Zimmerman Complex, South Carolina State University (SCSU) Campus, in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

It was noted for the record that official notification of the meeting had been sent to the Offices of LLR-Communications and Governmental Affairs and LLR-General Counsel; appropriate newspapers; WIS-TV; South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers (SCSPE).

Chairman Mitchell S. Tibshrary, P.E., called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Other members present were Gaye Garrison Sprague, P.E., Secretary; Deborah J. Livingston, Public Member; Cecil Huey, Ph.D., P.E.; M.L. Love, P.E.; James O. (Pete) Gordon, P.E.; Gene L. Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S.; and A. Cleveland Gillette, P.L.S.

Also present were Jan Simpson, Board Administrator; Brian Oxendine, Administrative Assistant; Susan Hicks, Data Coordinator; Charlie Ido, Investigator; Todd Bond, Investigator; and Sharon Dantzler, Advice Counsel. From SCSU, Dean Lewis and Dr. Whitney were present.

Administrator Simpson reviewed the agenda. Agenda Item #15, Violations Report was moved ahead because Investigators Ido and Bond were unable to stay for the entire meeting. Agenda Item #12, Ambassadorship was changed to Item #4(a).

Where action is recorded below, it was taken in each case on motion duly made, seconded and carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19-20, 2005. The meeting will be held at the Citadel in Charleston, SC.

Member Sprague moved that the minutes of the November 9, 2004, Board meeting be approved. Member Love seconded the motion. The minutes from the November 9, 2004, meeting were approved.

Ambassadorship:

Chairman Tibshrary spoke about the progress of the USC/SCSU degree program currently being developed. Chairman Tibshrary clarified for the Board that the intent of the program is to establish a degree that is substantially equivalent to an engineering program accredited by EAC/ABET. A timeline has been laid out so that USC can receive curricular information from SCSU and provide feedback by April 15, 2005. Another dean's meeting has been set for March 18, 2005, at USC.

Andre Brooks, public attendee, posed questions about ABET accreditation criteria. Chairman Tibshrary informed Mr. Brooks that his questions were better suited for the licensure hearing scheduled for February 23, 2005.

Committee Reports:

Economic Growth Issues: Member Love reported that the Senate is considering Bill 368. The bill's stated focus is to have the majority of engineering work and professional services for public works performed by individuals residing in South Carolina.

Review of Statutes and Regulations: Member Sprague asked that members review a draft copy of statute and regulation changes identified at the November 2004 committee meeting. Any changes should be compiled and a final report will be presented at the next Board meeting. Specific issues that may require change include the minimum experience requirement, the definition of direct supervisory control, and experience gained while completing a graduate degree.

Phyllis Pelzer raised concerns about the statutory requirements for upgrading a Category B (restricted) Associate Professional Engineer's license to a Category A (unrestricted) Professional Engineer's license. Member Sprague included that concern as an item to be reviewed for possible change.

Violations Report:

The Violations report was moved up in the agenda to accommodate the investigators' schedules. Investigator Ido explained the new reporting format for cases investigated by the Office of Investigations and Enforcement and gave an update on how the office is developing. Member Sprague expressed concerns over the lack of information provided in the new reporting format. Advice Counsel Dantzier stated that the format may be altered to accommodate the Board's needs. The new format does not require that the Board enter executive session. In open session, the Board voted to close the following 31 cases:

20040039; 2004040; 20040045; 20040046; 20040047; 20040049;
20040050; 20040051; 20040044; 20040053; 20040054; 20040056;
20050004; 20050002; 20050003; 20050007; 20050008; 20050010;
20050011; 20050009; 20050012; 20050013; 20050014; 20040015;
20040016; 20040038; 20050005; 20040036; 20040010; 20040017;
20040023.

Member Sprague abstained from voting on the motion to close the cases presented.

Committee Reports (continued):

Photogrammetry/GIS Examinations, Surveyor Education: Member Gillette spoke about the proposed examination. The contract with Mr. Plasker should be finalized. Review courses should be established. Member Gillette encouraged the Board to develop an Ambassadorship program for land surveying. NCEES may have a speaker's kit for surveying comparable to the established kit for engineering. The concerns over the declining number of land surveyors being licensed were reiterated. Considering the July 1, 2010, change in education requirements, Member Gillette emphasized the necessity of establishing a four-year surveying program in South Carolina.

Career Guidance: Member Livingston contacted Richland District One and reported that they are doing an excellent job in promoting engineering in several high schools. The District was receptive to the idea of promoting land surveying in the same way. Member Livingston will be working to help develop demand for the surveying courses.

Practice in One's Area(s) of Expertise, Assistance with Economic Growth Issues: Member Gordon has written an article to be included in the next newsletter. The article addresses the importance of practicing only in one's area(s) of expertise.

Promoting Path to Licensure, Faculty Licensure: Member Huey reported that while students are encouraged to take the Fundamentals of Engineering examination, there is not an expectation that the examination be completed. Regarding faculty licensure, Member Huey reported that licensure is generally viewed only as a notable accomplishment. He suggested that ABET criteria including professional practice, and not just design experience, could help encourage faculty licensure.

Code Footprint:

The Code Footprint questionnaire sent to the architects will be modified and sent to the in-state engineers in South Carolina. Bill Lafferty has agreed to tabulate the responses.

Continuing Education (CE) Audit:

Data Coordinator Hicks presented the Board with statistics of the CE audit for the current renewal period. She discussed the audit process and how a licensee can successfully provide the information requested.

Policy Review:

The policy regarding the use of electronic seals and signatures will be revised for clarification. The other policies reviewed will not require revision. The "fifteen-month" policy regarding practicing with an expired license and the appropriate course of discipline will be presented at the next meeting.

Board Presidents' Assembly:

Chairman Tibshrary reported on the following items that were discussed at the meeting:

- Calculator Policy—a list of approved calculators has been developed.
- Seating Chart—enhancing examination security.
- Nuclear Candidates—low numbers are endangering the continuation the nuclear examination.
- Surveyors' Kit—a speaker's kit for surveying has been developed.
- Surveyors' Exam Committee—seeking volunteers.
- Reference Materials—limiting allowed volume to three cubic feet.
- Pass Rate—research schools vs. teaching schools, faculty licensure, etc.
- Amending Model Law—possibly adding requirement of thirty hours beyond undergraduate.
- Practice Exam—developing a practice-based examination.
- Approved CE Providers—NCEES may develop a registration system for CE providers.

Administrator Simpson reported that the meeting was extremely informative. Other administrators were very welcoming and helpful.

Upcoming Travel:

Travel arrangements for the 2005 Southern Zone meeting were discussed. Chairman Tibshrary's travel will be covered by the Southern Zone. Members Love, Gordon, Gillette, and Sprague will attend provided travel requests are approved. Member Gillette will attend even if travel is not approved.

Report of Board Administrator:

Administrator Simpson provided licensure statistics.

The application process will be modified to require completed packets submitted by applicants; staff will no longer gather information to support the application. Administrator Simpson explained the proposed process and possible measures to ensure the veracity of the information gathered by the applicants. Member Sprague raised the concern that statute may require the Board to gather the information. Staff will research and amend the process as necessary.

LLR is implementing a new licensing system. The Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors is scheduled to switch to the new system in early 2005.

Administrator Simpson will be reducing committee work for the next year.

Chairman Tibshrary discussed the licensure hearings scheduled for February 23, 2005. He asked that advice counsel brief the Board on the proper procedures for the hearing.

South Carolina Ethics Commission:

The Board was reminded to complete the required documentation for the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Oxendine
Administrative Assistant