

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*S. C. Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation  
Board of Accountancy*

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 10:00 a.m.

**NOTE: These minutes are a record of the motions and official actions taken by the Board and a brief summary of the meeting.**

**1. Call to Order**

Chris Huggins, CPA, Chair, was present and called the meeting of the South Carolina Board of Accountancy to order on October 25, 2023, at 10:04 a.m., with a quorum present. Other Board members present were: Ken Whitener, CPA, Vice Chair, Jada McAbee, CPA, Jayne Maas, CPA, Chip Summers, CPA, Kelly Epting, CPA, Deltrease Hart-Anderson, AP, Bob Wood, Public Member, and Charles Brooks, Public Member. LLR staff members participating in the meeting included: Susanna Sharpe, CPA, Board Administrator, Chelsea Buchanan, Program Coordinator, Hardwick Stuart and Mary League, Advice Counsel, Todd Bond and Wattie Wharton from the Office of Investigations and Enforcement, Jamie Keller, CPA, Investigator, and Erin Baldwin from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. Chris Jenkins and David Knoble from SCACPA were also present.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**Motion**

Bob Wood made a motion to approve the consent agenda and minutes as well as the absence of Lora Prevatte and Jan Pierce. Ken Whitener seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**3. Chair's Remarks (Chris Huggins)**

Chris Huggins thanked everyone for attending.

**4. Office of Investigation & Enforcement**

**A. Number of Open Complaints**

Todd Bond briefed the Board on the OIE report. 67 complaints have been received from January 1, 2023. There are 25 active investigations. Six cases are pending further investigation by another agency and two cases are pending IRC.

**B. IRC Report**

Todd Bond presented the August 29, 2023 IRC report. One case is being recommended for dismissal, two cases are being recommended for letters of caution, and three cases for formal complaint.

**Motion**

Bob Wood made a motion to approve the IRC report. Charles Brooks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Todd Bond also presented the September 26, 2023 IRC report. One case is being recommended for dismissal, three cases for letter of caution, and one case is recommended for formal complaint.

**Motion**

Chris Huggins made a motion to approve the IRC report. Ken Whitener seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**C. Requests for Extension of Time to Complete Investigation**

An extension of time to complete investigation is being requested for twelve cases.

**Motion**

Jada McAbee made a motion to approve the extensions until the next Board meeting as requested. Chip Summers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Cases approved for extension are 2021-20, 2021-31, 2022-17, 2022-31, 2022-39, 2022-40, 2022-48, 2022-50, 2023-5, 2023-7, 2023-8, and 2023-11.

**5. Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report**

Erin Baldwin presented the ODC report for information. There are fourteen open cases, two cases pending hearing or agreement, and three cases have been closed since January 1, 2023.

**6. Administrator's Report (Susanna Sharpe)**

- the licensee update was included in the Board materials
- financial reports were included in the Board materials
- Ms Sharpe introduced new board member Kelly Epting, CPA
- 2024 renewals will begin soon and registration emails for the NASBA CPE Tracker service will be going out soon
- projects such as CPE compliance and databasing of Board Orders are ongoing

**7. New Business**

**A. IRC Nominations**

**Motion**

Ken Whitener made a motion to appoint Walda Wildman to serve on the IRC committee and to re-appoint Michael Putich. Chris Huggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**B. NASBA Credit Relief**

### **Motion**

Chip Summers made a motion to approve the extension of CPA exam credits lost between January 30, 2020 and May 11, 2023 until June 30, 2025 due to hardship created by Covid-19. Jada McAbee seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **8. Report from Education Committee**

Jayne Maas presented the report of the Education Committee from its October 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 meeting. Current topics include NASBA/AICPA initiatives such as changes to the CPA exam credit window, experience, learn, and earn program, and exam credit relief due to Covid-19.

Dr Maas also shared the following comments with the Board:

A significant issue shared with educators was a proposed USC program to deliver 10-courses granting the equivalent of three-credit hours each, or 30 unaccredited total hours, at lower than per-standard accredited course rates. This proposal was initially intended to comply with current law in section 40-2-35 (C)(2) and proposed legislation to that section. The Education Committee chair indicated it would be helpful for the Board to meet with USC to facilitate an open dialogue and Q&A to understand the types of non-traditional programs which might be coming down the pipeline from our constituent universities to meet the additional 30 hours education requirements. We need to be forward thinking.

While the Board may not advocate for specific programs, Board Chair Huggins indicated that USC should send a request to be placed on a future Board agenda.

### **9. Presentation from SCACPA on Proposed Legislation**

Chris Jenkins and David Knoble presented the most recent draft of proposed legislation. In addition to some minor corrections, draft legislation will include changes to the CPA exam credit window. Other topics being discussed involve substantial equivalency and education requirements.

### **10. Public Comment**

David Knoble thanked the board for giving SCACPA the opportunity to participate and reminded everyone of the upcoming Oath Ceremony.

### **11. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Charles Brooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:53am on October 25, 2023. Jada McAbee seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.