

MINUTES
South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors
9:30 a.m., May 27, 2025
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Midlands Conference Room
Columbia, SC

Call to Order

Chairperson Dinkins called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Statement of Public Notice

Chairperson Dinkins stated that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, on the Board's website, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Introduction of Board Members and Other Persons Attending

Board members participating included Gene Dinkins, PE, PLS, Chairperson; Henry Dingle, PLS, Vice Chairperson; D. Mack Kelly, PE, PLS, Secretary; Jimmy Chao, PE; Timothy Rickborn, PE; Peter Strub, PE; Angela Musselwhite, PE; and Kent T. Stair.

Staff members participating included: Lenora Addison-Miles, Board Executive; Ely Grote, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Kenesha Wilson, Administrative Coordinator; Chris Elliott, Esq., Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Charles Turkal, Robert Dean, and Wattie Wharton, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; Billie Chambers and Tajuana Hall, Division of Operations Technology and Security.

M. Sean Cary (Creel Court Reporting) served as the court reporter.

Review and Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of Excused Absences

All members were present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the March 11, 2025 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Dingle made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Reports

Office of Investigations and Enforcement

Wattie Wharton, Office of Investigations and Enforcement, presented the OIE report. From January 2, 2025 until May 21, 2025: 27 complaints received, four active investigations, and four closed cases.

Investigative Review Conference Report

Mr. Wharton presented the IRC report. The IRC was held on May 13, 2025 with the following recommendations: two dismissals, one letter of caution and four formal complaints.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to approve the IRC recommendation for a formal complaint in one case. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Dinkins was recused from this matter.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to approve the IRC recommendations for the remaining cases. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Mr. Elliott presented the ODC report. As of May 22, 2025, there were 32 open cases, two pending hearings and agreements, six cases closed since the last report and fourteen cases closed since January 1, 2025.

Administrative and Financial Reports

Mrs. Miles presented the Administrative and Financial reports. As of May 7th, there were 20,513 engineers, 884 surveyors, and 101 dual licensees current through 2026. There were 3,683 firms and 1,281 branch offices active through March 31, 2027. Meeting materials also contain information regarding the number of in state and out-of-state early PE/PS exam candidates each year. According to the NCEES CBT Summary for the April thru June testing window, there were a total (including scheduled and delivered) of 364 FE, nine FS, 112 PE, four PS, and two SE exams. The Board has received 2,902 Early PE exam applications and 1,937 have passed the exam. There have been 44 Early PS applicants and 27 have passed. The March cash balance was \$5,049,399.62 and the Education and Research Fund balance was \$802,968.22.

College of Charleston – Dr. Bob Mignone, Department of Engineering Chair

Dr. Mignone presented an overview of the history and programs at the College of Charleston. The initial engineering program was established Fall of 2020, systems program along with the electrical program the following year. The EAC/ABET accreditation process began in October 2023 for the BS systems engineering program. The ABET accreditation review for the electrical program is taking place in October 2025.

The Board encouraged the utilization of the FE/FS Coupon Program once ABET accreditation has been obtained. The NCEES Honor Chords for students who pass the FE and FS exams were also recommended.

Application Hearing

- a. Mark Christian Atkinson was unable to attend and rescheduled for the July 8, 2025 meeting.
- b. Aaron Philip Falkenmeyer appeared before the board seeking comity licensure consideration with an engineering technology degree. He was not represented by counsel and he did not have any witnesses. This matter was recorded by a court reporter in order to provide a

verbatim transcript should one be necessary. Mr. Stair and Ms. Musselwhite were recused from the hearing.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Rickborn made a motion to exit executive session. Mr. Chao seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION: After exiting executive session, Mr. Rickborn made a motion to deny the application based on applicant's education not meeting the educational requirements for licensure. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Funding Request

- a. The board reviewed a funding request for the 2025 S.C. Engineering Conference & Trade Show that will be held June 5-7, 2025 in Myrtle Beach, SC and virtually. Allison King and Adam Jones provided details regarding the event.

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to approve the \$45,000 request. Mr. Rickborn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- b. The board reviewed a funding request for the SCSPE Licensure Awareness Initiative that will be held at five baseball stadiums (Myrtle Beach, Columbia, Spartanburg, Charleston, Greenville) around the state. Allison King and Adam Jones provided details regarding the events. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to only approve \$5,000 for one location. Mr. Chao seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Review of Action items

The Board reviewed the action items from the March 11, 2025 meeting.

Construction Experience – This matter is still pending.

Surveyor Education – This matter is still pending due to administrative issues with implementation. Mrs. Miles will provide an update at the July meeting.

NCEES Education Eval (General Education Deficiencies) – The board reviewed this matter and no action was taken.

Surveyor Education (Math & Science Core Curriculum) – The Board reviewed the revised Education Guidelines.

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to approve the Mathematics and Science Core Curriculum content revisions. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:10 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.

New Business

Request for Construction/Contract Administration Regulations – David Victoria

Mr. Victoria, a South Carolina licensed architect, addressed the board requesting changes in the regulations to include construction/contract administrator roles similar to those in the architect regulations. The information was taken under advisement and no action was taken.

NCEES SE CBT Depth Exam Potential Motion

MOTION: Mr. Rickborn made a motion to enter executive session to discuss confidential NCEES exam information, with Mrs. Miles participating in the discussion. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Rickborn made a motion to exit executive session. Mr. Dingle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

NCEES Exam Coupon Program Update

The Board reviewed the report from NCEES showing the number of candidates that have utilized the FE/FS coupon vouchers. Mr. Chao informed the board that Clemson University, The Citadel, USC, and Francis Marion have utilized the coupons. A total of 410 vouchers have been purchased. He indicated raising awareness will encourage effectiveness of the coupon voucher. Mrs. Miles will follow up with Director Farr regarding the extension of the program and report at the July meeting. Mr. Chao will request additional information from NCEES to include how many exam candidates obtained EIT certification, graduated, and exam pass rates.

MOTION: Mr. Kelly made a motion to extend the program for an additional year. Mr. Chao seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Disciplinary Hearing

- a. The board held a hearing in Case 2025-24 (MOA) – Mehrdad Sasani. The respondent appeared via WebEx videoconference and was not represented by counsel, and did not have any witnesses. This matter was recorded by a court reporter to provide a verbatim transcript should one be necessary. Mr. Rickborn was recused from the hearing.

Mr. Rickborn left the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to enter executive session for legal advice. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Strub made a motion to exit executive session. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION: After exiting executive session, Mr. Chao made a motion to accept the MOA, issue a public reprimand and \$500 fine. Mr. Strub seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Notice of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Chao made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenesha Wilson
Administrative Coordinator I