

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
Board of Examiners in Optometry  
Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2020 3:00P.M.**

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building and on the board 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.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Michelle Cooper, President  
Dr. James Vaught  
Dr. Jeremy P. Anderson  
Dr. Deborah Long  
Mr. Jesse Price  
Mr. Charles Hill

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT**

Stacey Hewson, Esquire, Office of Advice Counsel  
Meredith Buttler, Administrator  
Tina Brown, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Mark Sanders, Office of Investigations and Enforcement

**ALSO PRESENT**

Tina Behles, Court Reporter  
Dr. Wayne Cannon  
Jackie River  
Anna Balderson  
Dr. Katie Davis

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Cooper called the meeting to order at 3:07 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda.  
Vaught/Price/approved.

**APPROVAL OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBER**

**Motion:** To approve Dr. Van Veen's absence due to work.  
Vaught/Price/approved.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting.  
Vaught/Price/approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Welcomed Dr. Long to the Board and thanked all for participating in the conference call.

## STAFF REPORTS

### Administrator's Report

Ms. Buttler reported, to date the Board has 960 active licensees with 11 pending applications and 2 exam eligible applications. Since the last Board meeting on February 6, 2020, the Board has issued 13 licenses. The Board's current fiscal balance as of March 31, 2020, is -\$1,077.37.

Ms. Buttler reported the call for nominations for the seat currently held by Dr. Van Veen was conducted in February 2020. The office was prepped and ready to initiate the election in mid-March, however due to COVID-19 measures the agency engaged in relocating the work force to remote operations. As such the IT department had to place a hold on various projects including the board election. Now that the demand on the IT department has lessened, Board staff were able recommence with the election process. Information has been posted to the Board website and an eblast is to go out to licensees notifying them of the election set to open on Friday, May 8 and close at midnight on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Board was reminded that license renewals are this year. As per previous years, renewals will open in September and licensees will be receiving email verifications prior to the opening of renewals.

### Office of Investigations and Enforcement Report

Mr. Mark Sanders reported there have been three cases were received in first quart of 2020. To date, no cases have been closed and one is currently under active investigation.

Mr. Sanders presented the IRC report, which met on April 22, 2020. The report included five cases for dismissal and two letters of caution.

**Motion:** To approve the five cases for dismissal.  
Anderson/Vaught/approved.

**Motion:** To approve the two cases for dismissal with a letter of caution.  
Hill/Long/approved.

### Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Ms. Tine Brown stated there was no report at this time.

## NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of Regulation 95-4: Continuing Education Criteria

Dr. Cooper shared that due to COVID-19, a large number of in-person CE meetings have been cancelled. The Board reviewed and discussed COPE's revision to their course approvals which allows live webinars to be counted as 'in-person' hours. Additional information regarding upcoming meetings and conferences and licensees ability to attain in-person CE hours was discussed. The Board will continue to monitor 'in-person' CE course offerings and will review any additional amendments to the CE requirements at the next Board meeting.

**Motion:** To increase the online CE hours allowance to 15 CEs for the current CE cycle, January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020, only.  
Long/Hill/approved

Board staff will craft information to be posted to the Board website and notify all licensees via email.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Board meeting is August 5, 2020 in room 105.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.  
Long/Vaught/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 P.M.