

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

Date: January 11, 2024

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: 1100 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Access Using Video Conferencing
Meet.google.com/ipm-pxny-hej
Phone: 1-484-416-2276
PIN: 201 307 165#

Present: Sallye Perrin, P.E., Chairman
Howard (Skip) Harclerode, P.E., Vice Chairman
Edward Hubner, Secretary, P.E.
Pastor Farinas, P.E.
Karl Rickert, P.E.
Judi Miller, R.A.

Others Present: Zevi Thomas, Executive Director
Matthew Venuti, AAG, Board Counsel
Ruby Courtney, Board Administrator
Dorian Price, Administrative Specialist
Dara Moore, Audit Specialist
B. Davis
James Mirable
Elvis Andino Nolasco

Absent: Dhrubajyoti Biswas, P.E

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chair, Ms. Perrin, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Motion (I) was made by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Mr. Hubner and unanimously carried to deny one application for the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam for an insufficient amount of engineering work experience.

Motion (II) was made by Mr. Harclerode, seconded by Mr. Hubner and unanimously carried to approve 21 applications for reciprocity, 22 applications for the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination and one application for PE licensure by Transfer of Grades.

Applications for PE Licensure by Reciprocity are as follows:

Ahmed, Elfatih (62238)	Michaud, David E. (62249)
Belkowitz, Jonathan S. (62239)	Mittapalli, Pavitra (62250)
Brundavanam, Sameeraja (62240)	Mittapally, Sravan Kumar (62251)
Dumitriu, Toader (62241)	Mohammed, Khizar Ali (62252)
Ellsworth, Andrew J. (62242)	Morgan, Nicholas C. (62253)
Godzwon, Jr., Gerald C. (62243)	Okten, Fatih S. (62254)
Hanna, Mia (62244)	Qian, Jie (62255)
Havey, Tye (62245)	Zaidi Moshin A. (62256)
Headley III, Boyd G, (62246)	Zhang, Wei (62257)
Kwon, Young Ki (62247)	Zhou, Chen (62258)
Liang, You (62248)	

Application for PE Licensure by Transfer of Grades are as follows:

Zhao Wenjun (62259)

Applications for the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination are as follows:

Abebe, Daniel T.	Macklin, Princess D.
Alhawamdeh, Nadia J.	Metzger, Nicholas K.
Andino Nolasco, Elvis J.	Moeller, Michelle A.
Belson, Matthew F.	Moshe, Amarech F.
Chiem Chau B.	Phan, Nhi
Doermann, Jessica	Ridenour, James W.
Fan, Dixiao	Safi, Zabihullah
Galginaitis, Daniel M.	Seely, Michelle B.
Giampa, Rachel L.	Sengebusch, Marc J.
Joel, Benton P.	Snow, Kody N.
Ledesma Leal, Veronica L.	Youngs, Nicholas D.

ACTION ON MINUTES

Motion (III) was made by Mr. Harclerode, seconded by Mr. Rickert, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023 Board meeting as submitted.

APPEARANCE OF A DENIED PE EXAM APPLICANT

Mr. Davis appeared before the Board because he was denied at the December 14, 2023 meeting for the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam. He stated he is a Senior Electrical Engineer at Google and applied for the exam under Option D which requires at least 12 years of engineering work experience that is satisfactory to the Board, five of which he must show responsible charge of engineering work. He was awarded eight years and nine months for the engineering work experience he submitted and two years for his BS in Electrical Engineering from Morgan State University which granted him a total of 10 years and nine months toward a 12-year work experience requirement. Mr. Davis stated he understood the statute states the Board “may” grant a year of experience per year of undergraduate education and requested for the Board to explain why he was only awarded two years for his four-year education since his degree is considered EAC/ABET accredited.

Mr. Davis also mentioned he has additional work experience that he did not report in his application and that he has already paid \$1200 for a PE exam review course along with other related study materials. He also noted that he intended to take the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam in order to get reciprocity with other states once he obtains a PE license in Maryland.

Mr. Farinas explained his reasoning for only awarding two years for the BS in Electrical Engineering. He stated courses not related to engineering do not count as work experience. Mr. Hubner elaborated on the issue as well and explained that to get full credit for his education, he should take the FE exam.

It was suggested that Mr. Davis submit the additional work experience since he is very close to meeting the work experience requirement and Ms. Courtney agreed to email Mr. Davis the appropriate forms.

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptable Course By Course Evaluations

Ms. Courtney stated that she is having issues with applicants who obtain course-by-course evaluations of their foreign BS degrees in order to apply to a MS program in engineering within the US. These evaluations conclude that the degree is equivalent to a BS in engineering from an accredited institution which gives the applicant the impression that their BS degree meets our educational requirements for licensure and then they can use the MS degree as one year towards the work experience requirement.

Ms. Courtney stated when an applicant uses NCEES to conduct the credential evaluation and NCEES finds the degree meets their education standard, the Board has agreed it also meets our education standard and that applicant will get a year off of the work experience requirement for a MS in engineering in this situation. The NCEES Education Standard requires 32 college semester credit hours of higher mathematics and basic sciences, 16 college semester credit hours in general education that compliments the technical content of the curriculum, and 48 college semester credit hours of engineering science and engineering design.

Ms. Courtney asked if the Board is allowed to only accept a course-by-course evaluation from NCEES. Mr. Harclerode stated we do not know if the other approved credential evaluation companies use that same criteria and that previous Board Counsel recommended that the Board not limit the applicants to only one credential evaluation company appearance to avoid the appearance of Board endorsement.

The Board Chair stated that NCEES charges \$350 for a credential evaluation. Mr. Thomas stated that the Architects only use National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and Mr. Venuti stated that this requirement is part of the Architect's Board regulations. The Board Chair asked Mr. Venuti if regulations could be proposed to have NCEES as the sole course-by-course evaluation provider to the PE Board. Mr. Venuti saw no reason it could not be implemented. In the meantime, the Board Chair suggested Ms. Courtney refer these types of issues to the Board. The Board Chair asked Mr. Venuti to add this for future proposed regulations.

Approved CPC Providers

Mr. Thomas presented to the Board a few figures and proposals to improve the CPC approved provider process. There are currently 270 Board-approved continuing education providers and he considers the sheer number of options could be confusing for licensees. He stated the regulations already allow for pre-approved providers from national, regional or state-accredited academic institutions, professional societies and/or organizations. Regarding online/commercial providers (the vast majority), Mr. Thomas recommends those providers seeking Board pre-approval status should conform to standards established by third party credential bodies such as, International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). This will ensure the course content is up-to-date and meets industry standards.

Mr. Thomas presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board, and questioned whether the aim of CPC policy was simply compliance or actual continuing professional competency of professional engineers. He stated that there are professional organizations such as IACET and ANSI which set the standard for the industry. He also noted that NCEES suggests 15 professional development hours with no carryover per year.

Mr. Rickert mentioned he found courses offered through IACET to be expensive. The Board Chair says the issues she has noticed are courses taken which are work related and not related to engineering. Mr. Hubner stated licensees should take a course from an approved provider and if there are any questions, it should be taken up with the provider. Mr. Hubner also mentioned that the Complaint Committee receives a significant number of audit failures with either no courses or unacceptable courses. If the course is not acceptable, the burden of proof should be on the licensee.

The Board Chair mentioned she was sent a course syllabus from the Young Engineer's Seminar and was asked if professional development hours (PDHs) could be awarded but these were for personal development and not engineering related.

Mr. Hubber stated that the Education Committee of the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers is having the same issue. Mr. Thomas suggested eliminating the detective work for

the Board and staff. Mr. Farinas mentioned he evaluates the courses submitted and the qualifications of the course presenters with the application to become an approved provider.

Mr. Harclerode suggested that the Board revisit the standards for providers, if needed, and revise the regulations. The Board Chair stated we need to get more specific about which courses are acceptable and that information should be added to the regulations. She also mentioned that the Board started out requiring 24 PDHs, which was reduced to 16 PDHs.

Mr. Rickert mentioned continuing education requires effort and mandating it requires companies to offer training opportunities.

The Board Chair summarized by stating that the Board should:

1. Review the CPC regulations
2. Review the application for provider approval
3. Review the PowerPoint presentation
4. Review the listing of topics supplied by the Board Chair

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY (CPC) COMMITTEE REPORT – None to Report

REPORT FROM ETHICS COMMITTEE

Mr. Harclerode submitted a couple of case studies along with the exams for each one to the Executive Director who will work with Mr. Hubner to get them implemented in the Board's free Ethics course.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Thomas stated he reached out to the Department of Budget and Management to get a better explanation of what the contract line item was in the Budget Report submitted to the Board at the December 2023 Board meeting. He found out that this could include all staff in the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing which support the administrative functions of the PE Board. He also stated that a new management system will eventually replace the AS400 as our database which means funds will have to be allocated to replace the aging platform. The Board Chair asked about the Budget reserves and Mr. Thomas said he did not inquire about that information. Mr. Hubner stated every year more money is collected than is spent and the Board should know the status of any surplus or reserves. He also wants to know how long it took to get the current surplus. He noted this information is usually obtained from a balance sheet. Ms. Miller asked if the person responsible for generating the budget report could be invited to the next Board meeting to provide more detailed information.

The Board members are concerned that money is being reallocated from the Board, but the Board Council stated that should not happen. Board Counsel mentioned there was an instance in 2008 and explained the reasoning behind those funds being redirected for other state initiatives.

Mr. Thomas reported he received an invitation to travel to London as part of a delegation with NCEES working on a proposed Mutual Recognition Agreement with the United Kingdom for licensure reciprocity with the UK, but he is unable to attend due to his schedule and asked if any of the Board members would be interested in attending to represent Maryland and NCEES Northeast Region. No board members were able to confirm their availability to attend at this time. The meeting takes place from February 4 – 8, 2024 in London, England.

REPORT FROM BOARD COUNSEL

Mr. Venuti reported that the fee increases were published in the Maryland Register on December 29, 2023 and that any comments will be accepted through January 29, 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email regarding a Concerning Trend for the Engineering Profession in Maryland

The Board received an anonymous email from a concerned Public Works Engineer regarding larger engineering firms outsourcing engineering design and Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) work to other countries where the labor is cheaper. Once the design is done, it is turned over to a US-based Professional Engineer in the state where the project is to be constructed, who is given a nominal amount of time to review the design and intense pressure is put on that engineer to sign and seal it. This concerned Public Works Engineer feels that quality, public safety, and the reputation of the profession will suffer ultimately resulting in the decline in demand for US engineering labor which will drive down industry standards for wages and benefits.

The Board Chair deemed this could be comparable to plan stamping and stated unfortunately this is what a lot of the larger engineering firms are doing.

Email from NCEES regarding the PE Electrical and Computer PAKS Survey

The Board received an email through Basecamp expressing the need for more participants for the PE Electrical and Computer PAKS Survey. The Board thanks NCEES for the invitation but we have no one available to participate.

APPLICATIONS APPROVED ADMINISTRATIVELY FOR RECIPROCITY

There were 47 applications, supported by NCEES Model Law Engineer records that were administratively approved for licensure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (IV) was made by Mr. Farinas, seconded by Mr. Hubner and unanimously carried to enter Executive Session at 11:00 a.m. at Meet google.com/ipm-pxny-hej or by phone 1-484-416-2276 (PIN 201 307 165#). This session was permitted to be closed pursuant to General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, §3-305(b) (7). Upon completion of the session, the Board reconvened its public meeting at 11:17 a.m.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

Mr. Rickert reported on the status of complaints discussed by the Complaint Committee January 11, 2024.

- 14-PE-23 Consent Order signed and fine paid. Recommend Close-Remove from Report
- 21-PE-23 Still under investigation
- 26-PE-23 Still under investigation
- 32-PE-23 Consent Order signed. Recommend Close- Remove from Report
- 34-PE-23 Response received. Investigating
- 39-PE-23 Investigating
- 03-PE-24 No longer pursuing a Civil suit. Request to reopen. Licensee supplied an explanation
- 04-PE-24 Investigating
- 09-PE-24 New Complaint. Closed and referred to the Home Improvement Commission§
- 45-PE-23 Closed

There was no Pre-Charge Report this month.

The Complaint Committee reviewed a conduct issue in which a firm license expired in Louisiana. The West VA and the Missouri Boards fined this licensee. The Board decided to take no action.

Motion (V) was made by Mr. Harclerode, seconded by Mr. Hubner, and unanimously carried to accept the recommendations of the Complaint Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rickert revisited the issue of credit for education under §14-305(d). He argued that four years of work experience should be awarded as work experience requirement for an EAC/ABET accredited degree. Ms. Miller reviewed the statute (§) which addresses possible credit for education and also has some concerns that this may be a way of requiring applicants to take the Fundamentals of Engineering exam. The Board Chair stated the intent of §14-305(d) was a path for an employee who started as an intern and obtained 12 years of engineering work experience. Mr. Thomas suggested a matrix similar to the Board's reinstatement guidelines matrix. The Board Chair asked both Mr. Rickert and Mr. Hubner to prepare a matrix for the February 2024 Board meeting.

Mr. Hubner notified the Board that legislation has been reintroduced by the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers, which will require candidates to successfully complete the Fundamentals of Engineering exam under §14-305(d).

Due to the possible lack of a quorum, the Board has moved the February 2024 Board meeting to Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. and this meeting will be virtual. The Complaint Committee will meet that same day at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (VI) was made by Mr. Harclerode, seconded by Mr. Farinas, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

_____ x _____ With Corrections

_____ Without Corrections

Signed by: Sallye Perrin
Board Chairperson

Date: March 7, 2024