

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION  
DIVISION OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS  
1511 PONTIAC AVENUE, BLDG. 68-2  
CRANSTON, RI 02920  
(401) 462-9592 Fax: (401) 462-9532 [www.bdp.state.ri.us](http://www.bdp.state.ri.us)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD**

**DATE: 15 April 2009**

**PLACE: Department of Business Regulation  
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 69, Conference Room  
69-2 Cranston, RI 02920**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Messieurs: Smith, Capezza, Jr., Fairbanks, Jr.,  
and Duhamel**

**MEMBER ABSENT: Mr. Bernardo**

**OTHERS PRESENT: Richard W. Berstein, Esq.  
Brian Riggs, Department Budget Administrator  
Lois Marshall, Administrative Assistant**

**CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Smith called the meeting to order**

**at 12:10 PM to commence Board business.**

**(1) NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mr. Fairbanks, Jr. made a motion to accept the minutes of the 18 March 2009 Board meeting. Vice Chairman Capezza, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Fairbanks, Jr. made a motion to approve and seal the minutes of the Executive Session of 18 March 2009. Mr. Duhamel seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A motion was made by Mr. Fairbanks, Jr. at 12:11PM to move into Executive Session pursuant to RI General Laws, Section §42-46(5)(a)(2) for sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation. Mr. Duhamel seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Mr. Fairbanks, Jr. made a motion at 12:27 PM to reconvene to Open Meeting in accordance with R.I.G.L. § 42-46(5) (a) (2) and seal the Minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Duhamel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Fairbanks, Jr. made a motion to confirm in open session the vote taken in executive session in accordance with R.I.G.L. §42-42-4 as follows: vote to close C2006-11 The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers vs. Allinson-Lama. Mr. Duhamel seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**(3) NCEES 2009 Engineering Award**

**The 2009 \$25,000 NCEES Engineering Award for Connecting**

**Professional Practice and Education grand prizewinner was the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of Florida A & M University-Florida State University.**

**(4) NCEES Revising Structural Engineering Exam**

**NCEES introduced a new 16-hour Structural PE exam, which will be given starting in April 2011. This exam will take the place of the Structural I and Structural II exams.**

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**(5) Correspondence from Susan Whitfield NCEES Associate Executive Director**

**Associate Executive Director, Susan Whitfield informed the Board that the NCEES Board of Directors authorized the dissolution of the limited liability company established for ELSES and directed that ELSES be operated as a division of NCEES.**

**(6) ELSE Sample Exam Authorization**

**So noted and filed.**

**(7) Connecticut Board Renewal fees**

**The Board reviewed all renewal fees from the Connecticut Board and compared them to the fees charged in Rhode Island. This information will be forwarded to the Director of DBR.**

## **(8) Meeting with Charles Chopin**

**The Board met with Mr. Chopin at 12:30 PM to discuss his professional experience requirements to sit for the PE exam and also his use of the term engineering in his title. Mr. Chopin informed the Board that he has a BS degree in mechanical engineering, his Master's degree and has taken and passed the NCEES FE exam. Mr. Chopin explained that his daily work involves reviewing engineering problems and writing software to resolve these problems. Chairman Smith stated that there is difference in writing software for resolving problems and using it to do engineering analysis for customers. Once you are doing engineering analysis the Board interprets that as the practice of engineering. Chairman Smith asked if there were any licensed engineers in his firm. Mr. Chopin answered that the majority of people that he works with are of a master and PhD level engineer. Chairman Smith stated that if Simulia Corporation is offering services of engineering analysis as Mr. Chopin described they would require a Certificate of Authorization and that the Board will contact them directly on this matter. Chairman Smith explained that Mr. Chopin would get one year of credit for his Master's Degree and if he has been working under a registered engineer that would give him his four years of experience.**

**Mr. Chopin needs to complete an application. Chairman Smith explained that Mr. Chopin couldn't continue to use the term engineering after his name because he is not a licensed professional engineer. Mr. Chopin explained that his IT department has programmed his title into all his e-mail and correspondence.**

**Attorney Bernstein will write to his company and explain that he cannot use the term engineering in his title until he is duly registered.**

**(9) Washington Accord Program**

**CPEES evaluated six of the eleven countries that are signatories to the Washington Accord program and found that they are not substantially equivalent to a degree from an EAC/ABET accredited program. If the Board receives an applicant from the Washington Accord he or she must have their degree evaluated from CPEES.**

**(10) Informational Bulletin March 2009 from the Landscape Architect Board**

**The Landscape Architect Board's informational bulletin regarding compliance with state and local codes and ordinances was sent to all cities, towns and Boards have been placed on hold until next month.**

**(11) Correspondence received from Fred B. Sarno, Director Warwick Building Department**

**So noted and filed.**

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**APPLICATIONS:**

**(12) Andranik Tahmassian**

The Board reviewed additional information received from Mr. Tahmassian. Mr. Fairbanks, Jr. made a motion that the Board's decision to deny Mr. Tahmassian registration remains unchanged. Vice Chairman Capezza, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**(13) Abramson, Alan B.**

The Board reviewed Mr. Abramson's application for registration and has denied him registration due to the fact that he did not pass the NCEES PE examination required by Rhode Island law.

**P.E. COMITY:**

Mr. Duhamel made a motion to grant comity to the following individuals in the disciplines specified. Mr. Fairbanks, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ALEXANDER, GABRIEL G. OH MECH. MORENO, JESSE M. CT CIVIL  
CHRISTEN, BARRY L. OH ELEC. PATNAUDE, DAVID M. MA CIVIL  
CROMPTON, JR., JOHN J. VT FIRE PROT. PEARSON, STUART  
C. ME CIVIL

FEHRMAN, GREGG A. PA CIVIL. RABASCA, KRISTIE L. ME CIVIL

FINLEY, ROBERT C. FL STRUC. RETTICH, KEVIN C. MI ELEC.

**FITZGERALD, BRADLEY S. MA CIVIL REYNOLDS; PETER  
M. MA CIVIL  
FOREST, RICHARD L. OK CIVIL RYAN, DANIEL F. AR STRUC.  
GERLING, GREGORY M. VA STRUC. STONE, MICHAEL A. IL ELEC.  
KHOURI, PEDRO R. NJ CIVIL WATKINS, STEPHEN M. MD CIVIL  
MIERZWA, THOMAS A. CT CIVIL**

**PE. COMITY DENIED:**

**Mr. Duhamel made a motion to deny comity to Mr. Roth due to the fact that in accordance with the guidelines established by the Board's law, rules and regulations he does not have the equivalent of a four-year engineering degree. Mr. Fairbanks, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**ROTH, ROBERT**

**C.O.A. APPLICATIONS;**

**C.O.A. Applications were not reviewed at this time.**

**ADJOURNED:**

**Chairman Smith informed the Board that the next Board meeting would be scheduled for 20 May 2009 at 12:00 noon. Mr. Fairbanks, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 PM. Vice Chairman Capezza, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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