

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, 18 May 2005

Open Session

The Open Session of the Board of Examiners in Optometry was called to order at 8:30 A.M. on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established.

Board Members in attendance:

David Mills, OD

Alessi A. Rispoli, OD

Ronald J. Serra, OD

Scott Surdut, OD

Board members not in attendance:

None

Staff members in attendance:

Kelly Doyle, Board Administrator, Health Professions Regulation

Maureen Hobson, Legal Counsel

Others in Attendance:

None

The minutes of the meetings held on 16 February 2005 were presented. On a motion by Dr. Serra and seconded by Dr. Serra, it was unanimously Voted to accept the Open and Executive minutes as presented and that the Executive minutes to remain sealed pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

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Topics of Discussion

The Board reviewed the endorsement application of Lisa Fernandez for licensure as an optometrist. The Board noted that according to section 5.4 of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Optometrists (Rules and Regulations) all endorsement applicants must meet the

qualification to practice optometry in this state in accordance with section 3.0, including completion of an internship in another state or jurisdiction that is in accordance with section 3.1(e); or provides written proof of full-time practice for a minimum period of six (6) months in another state or jurisdiction in areas encompassed by Appendix 1 of the Rules and Regulations. The Board noted that Dr. Fernandez request to waive the internships is denied because the information that she submitted to the Board relating to her successful completion of the internship requirements in another jurisdiction is incomplete. The Board instructed staff to inform Dr. Fernandez that she must successfully complete the internship program in Rhode Island, according to the Rules and Regulations or, must demonstrate that she has successfully completed all internship requirements in another jurisdiction before her application will be further considered for licensure. The Board and legal counsel also instructed staff to; 1) inform Dr. Fernandez that she may not practice optometry in Rhode Island until she is duly licensed, and 2) invite Dr. Fernandez to the next scheduled Board meeting to discuss this matter further. Staff will notify Dr. Fernandez of the Board's decision in writing.

The Board reviewed and approved the applications of Russell Auclair, OD and Norma Swenson, OD for certification to treat glaucoma.

Adjournment to Executive Session

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the Open Session and move to Executive Session pursuant to the Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 (a)(1)(4) of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, in that confidential issues of fitness for licensure and investigative cases will be discussed, or oral examinations administered. On a motion by

Dr. Serra, and seconded by Dr. Surdut, it was unanimously so Voted to adjourn to Executive Session.

Return to Open Session

Dr. Serra called the Open Session back to Order at 10:15 AM.

On motion of Dr. Serra, seconded by Dr. Surdut, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in Executive Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

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Miscellaneous Correspondence

Staff distributed to the Board a letter from Patricia Nolan, MD. Dr. Nolan expressed her gratitude for the work that the Board members do for the people of Rhode Island. No action by the Board is necessary.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. No action was necessary.

Announcements

None

Old Business

None

New Business

The Board reviewed the yellow page advertisements for Newport Eyeworks and the University Optometrists Ltd. and noted that the name of the responsible licensed optometrist is not included in the advertisement pursuant to Section 11.5 of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Optometrists. The Board instructed staff to inform Newport Eyeworks and the University Optometrists Ltd. that all future advertisements include the responsible optometrist.

Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the Open Session pursuant to the Sections 42-46-4 and 42-42-5 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island. On a motion by Dr. Surdut and seconded by Dr. Serra, it was unanimously so Voted to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Doyle

Board Administrator

Health Professions Regulation