

**APPROVED**

**BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
MINUTES OF EXAMINATION COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 13, 2015**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The Examination Committee convened on February 13, 2015, at 9:04 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233.

**PRESIDING:** Tammy K. Swecker, R.D.H.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** James D. Watkins, D.D.S.  
Melanie C. Swain, R.D.H.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bruce S. Wyman, D.M.D.

**OTHER MEMBER PRESENT:** Al Rizkalla, D.D.S.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director  
Kelley W. Palmatier, Deputy Executive Director  
Huong Vu, Operations Manager

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:** Three members of the Committee were present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Swecker asked if the Committee members had reviewed the March 8, 2013 minutes. No changes or corrections were made. Dr. Watkins moved to accept the March 8, 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

**STATUS OF PORTFOLIO MODEL CLINICAL EXAM DISCUSSION:** Ms. Reen reviewed the Committee's exploration of establishing a portfolio exam as an alternative clinical exam option for graduates of the VCU School of Dentistry. She said it was decided that the California portfolio exam model wasn't feasible for Virginia. She added that a letter was sent to Dr. Sarrett, Dean of the VCU School of Dentistry (School), requesting that he propose one or more portfolio models addressing both content and administration that could be accommodated at the School. She reported that she has not received a reply and that without the requested information the Board is not able to take further action.

Following discussion, Dr. Watkins moved to table this matter pending a response from the school and for Ms. Reen to follow up with the school again. The motion was seconded and passed.

Virginia Board of Dentistry  
Examination Committee  
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VA DENTAL LAW  
EXAM:

Ms. Reen stated that the Committee is charged with making a recommendation about the future of the Dental Law Exam. She reviewed the history of the exam and the lack of response to the last RFP issued for a testing agency to administer the exam. She advised that there were not enough licensees voluntarily taking the exam for CE credit to make it financially feasible for a testing agency to contract for its administration. She added that applicants frequently complained about the previous testing agency. She said that Board staff currently administers the exam for licensees who are required by a Board Order to take it.

After reviewing other states' provisions for law exams, the Committee agreed by consensus that the Board should reinstitute the requirement for passage of the law exam for licensure which is available online and preferably on the Board's web page. Ms. Reen stated that if the Committee wishes to require the law exam then it should recommend initiation of the needed regulatory process at the March Board meeting. She asked the Committee to put forward concepts for the development and implementation of the exam to facilitate discussion within DHP and testing agencies on establishing an online exam.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed by consensus to make the following recommendations to the Board:

- Issue a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to require passage of a law exam;
- Require applicants for licensure to pass the exam;
- Require all licensees to pass the exam once every three years;
- Phase in the periodic exam requirement over a three year period starting with the lowest license numbers;
- Set the passing grade at 75;
- Give three hours CE credit for passage of the exam;
- Allow the exam to be "open book" and to be completed within 24 hours; and
- Have licensees certify at renewal that they have passed the exam within the last three years.

ADJOURNMENT:

With all business concluded, the Committee adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

  
Tommy K. Swecker, R.D.H., Chair

  
Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director

Date

December 16, 2016  
Date