

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS SECTION MEETING

MINUTES

The Professional Engineers Section of the Virginia Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects (APELSCIDLA Board) met on November 4, 2008, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, with the following members present:

Nico De León
Stanley C. Harris
Wiley V. Johnson, III

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Jay W. DeBoer, Director
Mark N. Courtney, Deputy Director of Licensing and Regulation
Kathleen R. Nosbisch, Executive Director
Marian H. Brooks, Program Administrator
Krystle Dawn Hoverstock, Administrative Assistant

No representative was present from the Office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Harris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Call to Order

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the agenda. Mr. De León seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: De León, Harris, and Johnson.

Approval of Agenda

There were no comments made to the Section members.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Harris gave a brief overview of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Annual meeting. He noted a main topic at the meeting was that the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) was supportive of the Center for Professional Engineering Education Services (CPEES) evaluated degree programs advertised as "ABET equivalent."

Discussion of NCEES Annual Meeting

Ms. Nosbisch announced that the NCEES NE Zone meeting will be held at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott, April 17-18, 2009. She also stated that the current state travel restrictions may cause some restraints on participation. Mr. DeBoer has been confirmed as a speaker. Captain Cofer of the Board for Branch Pilots has also been requested to speak at the conference.

Update on 2009 NCEES NE Zone Meeting

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Section members that currently there are no institutes of higher education offering a degree in software engineering in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She also stated that NCEES will need support from at least 10 Boards to require a licensing exam. Following a brief discussion by the Section members, Mr. De León moved to support the development of the new exam disciplines; however, Virginia cannot ensure the required minimum number of candidates for this new exam. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: De León, Harris, and Johnson.

**Correspondence
from Software
Engineering
Licensing
Consortium**

The Section members were provided with a letter from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) regarding NCEES' BS+30 change in requirements. The section members discussed the implications of future applicants. Mr. Courtney informed the Section members that NCEES is expecting the BS+30 to be a requirement in 2020.

Letter from ASME

The Section members were provided with various memorandums and notices from NCEES and ABET.

**Review of
Information from
NCEES and ABET**

Mr. Harris briefed the Section members that CPEES has had an extremely difficult time verifying degrees from Iraq and Afghanistan due to the conflicts in those countries. He also mentioned that CPEES is supposed to receive original transcripts directly from the college or university; however, colleges and universities in these countries may no longer exist or be able to provide transcripts and the only transcripts available are from the individuals. Mr. Johnson moved to handle these incidents on a case by case basis. Mr. De León seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: De León, Harris, and Johnson.

**Discussion of Foreign
Evaluation from
NCEES**

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Section members that James Madison University's (JMU) Integrated Science and Technology (ISAT) degree program is ABET accredited as an Applied Science program; however, this degree is not an ABET accredited Engineering (EAC) or an Engineering Technology (TAC) program. Mr. Harris indicated the ISAT degrees would be evaluated under 18 VAC 10-20-190.5 and 18 VAC 10-20-210.5. Mr. Johnson moved that staff draft a letter to JMU providing clarification of the ABET accreditation, what the regulations are in Virginia, and why the ABET applied science accreditation of this degree doesn't equate to an EAC or a TAC accreditation. Mr. De León seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: De León, Harris, and Johnson.

**Discussion of JMU
ISAT Program**

After discussion, Mr. Johnson moved to accept CPEES evaluations which indicate that the degree is equivalent to an ABET accredited engineering degree program. Mr. De León seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: De León, Harris, and Johnson.

**CPEES ABET
Equivalency**

Staff has requested guidance when dealing with experience credits for applicants who have a foreign bachelors degree, but who also have an ABET accredited Masters degree. Following a discussion, the Section members agreed by consensus that an applicant may not receive the one year experience credit for earning an ABET accredited Masters degree (per regulation 18 VAC 10-20-240.5), if the applicant uses their Masters degree to satisfy their education requirements (per regulation 18 VAC 10-20-190.2, 18 VAC 10-210.1, and the definition of "approved engineering curriculum" in 18 VAC 10-20-160).

Foreign Non-Approved Bachelors Degrees with ABET Accredited Masters Degrees

Mr. Courtney stated that all applicants must have a Social Security Number or a Virginia DMV control number per § 54.1-116 of the *Code of Virginia*. He also noted that the Office of Social Security will issue a number, if you can provide a reason why one is needed. The Section members agreed by consensus that staff will direct applicants to the Social Security website when such issues arise.

Canadian National Insurance Number/US Social Security Number

Ms. Nobsch cited a previous discussion from the October 21, 2008, Board for Professional Soil Scientists and Wetland Professionals meeting. After discussion, the Section members requested that staff respond to the Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (VAPSS) informing them that some Professional Engineers may be qualified to evaluate soils

Discussion of Letter from VAPSS

Mr. De León informed the Section members that he attended a three day visit to Virginia Tech as an ABET observer. There were 20 evaluators, examining all disciplines. He stated that Virginia Tech professors were encouraged to be licensed Professional Engineers.


Other Business

Conflict of Interest forms were completed by all members present.

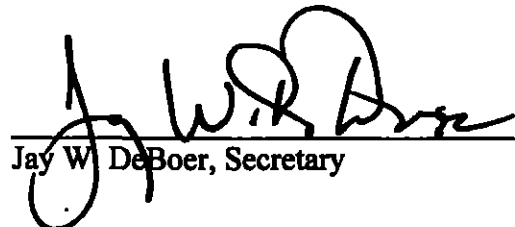
Conflict of Interest Forms

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Adjourn



Stanley C. Harris, Sr., Chair



Jay W. DeBoer, Secretary

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Stanley C. Harris
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Professional Engineers Section/APELSCIDLA Board
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Section Meeting November 4, 2008

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

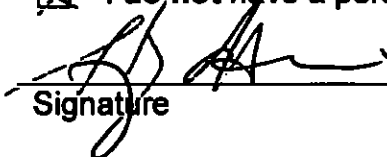
I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:


I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.


Signature


Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Nico De León
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Professional Engineers Section/APELSCIDLA Board
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Section Meeting November 4, 2008

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

None

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

None

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

Engineering

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Signature

[Handwritten Signature]

Date

11/4/08

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Wiley V. "Bif" Johnson, III
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Professional Engineers Section/APELSCIDLA Board
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Section Meeting November 4, 2008

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

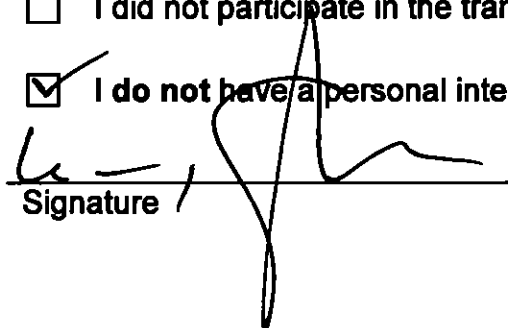
I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.


Signature

11.4.08
Date