

February 2017 Board Meeting and Special Meeting of Members Summary

Materials are on the [Board Meeting Microsite](#) and [Engineers Canada website](#), as linked in item titles.

President's Update

President Chris Roney presented his report to the Board, discussing the experience to date of the current governance model and the opportunity Engineers Canada has to refocus on the core business of the organization.

CEO Report to the Board

Interim CEO Stephanie Price updated the Board on key activities, including progress in the 2017 AOP and 2017-2020 business plan, the Journey to Excellence, the 2017 budget (to be provided for Board approval in April), online competency-based assessment project developments, Memorandum of Understanding with Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, upcoming Parliament Hill Contact Day (March 9), the success of Future City pilot, and working with APEGBC to expand OQM program.

Big Picture Thinking

Due to time constraints, the Big Picture Thinking session did not take place.

Board Workshop on Accreditation

On Monday, Board members met to discuss accreditation and raise their understanding of current efforts, ongoing challenges and future plans for accreditation. There was a great deal of discussion and the Board gained a greater understanding of the perspectives of the NCDEAS. The session reinforced the vital importance of regular, clear communication. Next steps: In April, representatives of the Accreditation Board and NCDEAS will meet to address issues discussed during the workshop.

Accreditation Board Report

Wayne MacQuarrie, Chair of the Accreditation Board, provided an update on activities of the AB. At its February 2017 meeting, the AB: made decisions on reports from programs; agreed to distribute a survey in the spring to HEI's to identify where criteria are perceived as restricting innovation; established a task group to examine issues surrounding AUs; held a half-day information session for programs receiving visits in 2017-2018.

NCDEAS Report

Jim Nicell, Dean of Engineering at McGill University, presented a report from the NCDEAS. This included information about the launch of a pilot initiative at 12 HEIs to create/assess one or more alternative models for the measurement of curriculum content. The pilot will likely

examine two options in place of AUs – ECTS units (European Credit Transfer System) and academic credits. Discussion took place on how Engineers Canada and regulators can be involved in this pilot.

CFES Update

Julie Tseng, President of the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students, presented an update to the Board. She shared how CFES has stabilized and streamlined operations and governance and improved opportunities for small schools to participate in CFES events; CFES' refreshed branding, web, and social media identities; progress on the Coalition of International Engineering Student Organizations; their focus on improving advocacy efforts and eliciting concerns and direction from membership. They are also fielding a national survey to understand student concerns on excessive workload. A similar survey was conducted by CREIQ in Quebec with results to be available in the spring.

Qualifications Board Report

Dennis Peters, chair of the Qualifications Board, presented a report to the Board. Since the last Board meeting, QB has developed its 2017-19 work plan, held three webinars, and launched a new consultation process. He also shared the QB's priorities for 2017-19.

Governance

A motion was passed directing the Governance Committee to examine options and alternatives to the current governance model and present recommendations to the Board at the May board meeting. The Board also discussed the frequency and timing of Board meetings, and referred this issue for further consideration by the Governance Committee. The Board also agreed that monitoring reports would be suspended during the governance review.

Special Meeting of Members

In a Special Meeting of Members, bylaw amendments were approved.

Presidents' Group Update

Tara Zrymiak, on behalf of Chris Zinck, presented a report of the meeting of the Presidents Group. The group recommends that Engineers Canada facilitate the bringing together of appropriate people from regulators, deans, and AB to move forward on the accreditation pilot. They also discussed the high relative revenue to Engineers Canada from Affinity programs. They discussed the size of the Board. They also discussed the challenges with

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technologists and technicians wanting a scope/right to practice. APEGBC is looking for support in handling this issue from other regulators and from Engineers Canada. This is an issue multiple regulators are facing.

[CEO Group Report](#)

Ann English, Chair of the CEO Group, presented a report of their recent meeting. The group requested the involvement of regulators in conversations about accreditation and noted that the pilot project is a useful input and should be included in the path forward. As requested, they will appoint a member to the AB task force and participate in the longer term working group. The CEO Group suggests the Board reconsider the reporting structure of AB and QB in the upcoming governance review, including reporting to the CEO as operational committees. They also suggest involving a CEO Group representative on the search committee for a new permanent Engineers Canada CEO.

CEO Search

A CEO Search Committee has been created composed of existing members of the Compensation Committee plus a representative from the CEO Group

[Linkages](#)

Russ Kinghorn, Chair of the Linkages Committee, presented on behalf of the Linkages Committee. He reported that new board member orientation will continue with sessions in May and September. The committee feels strongly that clarity and transparency of Engineers Canada's planning processes are important and has requested additional info on planning processes, including use of the project prospectus. The Linkages Committee is seeking input from the regulators on questions concerning the future of the engineering profession.

Open Forum

Part 1: Robert Hutton of Innovative Research Group, Jeanette Southwood, Vice-President of Strategy and Partnerships, and Shelley Ford, Communications Specialist, presented on the [Results of public perception research commissioned by Engineers Canada](#) to better understand the public's perception of the value, impact, opportunities and challenges of the engineering profession. The goal was to fill knowledge gaps that will assist Engineers Canada and our stakeholders in identifying target audiences and planning future activities.

Part 2: Annette Bergeron presented on the [Practice Evaluation and Knowledge \(PEAK\) Program](#). PEO has instituted process that asks engineers to complete online questionnaire when they pay their annual dues. It is not mandatory but the completion of the questionnaire will be indicated on PEO's online directory of practitioners. It was created in response to the reactive regulatory process: engineers are licensed and then only hear from the regulator on an annual basis to pay their dues unless a complaint is filed.

Part 3: Beryl Strawczynski, Practice Lead, Discipline and Enforcement, led a panel consisting of George Comrie, Dennis Peters and Chris Zinck discussing the [regulation of emerging disciplines](#). Experience shows that early intervention and being proactive is key when it comes to regulating emerging disciplines. They touched on the challenges of regulating emerging disciplines, the risks involved, as well as the role of regulators.

Part 4: Russ Kinghorn presented [the current draft of Engineers Canada's strategic plan](#) and discussed the purpose, approach, responsibilities and [timetable](#). Potential indicators have been added to each sub-theme, and a preamble has been added to clarify Engineers Canada's role in supporting the regulators. Regulators and Board are to review the third draft by April 15, 2017 with final draft to be proposed at the Open Forum in May 2017. At that time, the Board will recommend the Plan for approval by members Engineers Canada [planning documents can be found on the website](#). Comments are requested and should be sent to Stephanie Price.

[Next Meeting](#)

Board Meeting: May 25 to 27, St. John's, NL.