

Summary of Engineers Canada's 2019 Spring Meetings

Materials, reports, and presentations can be found at:

<https://engineerscanada.ca/about/governance/board-meetings/2019-05-23>

President's Report

Annette Bergeron presented the President's Report to the Board, which covered her 12 month term as president. It included an overview of regulator meetings attended, testimony provided to House of Commons and Senate committees, meetings held with federal government officials, attendance at stakeholder events, and participation in online campaigns such as 30 by 30 and International Women in Engineering Day.

Interim Performance Report

Gerard McDonald, Luigi Benedicenti, and Ron Leblanc presented the Interim Performance Report to the Board. This report covered January to April 2019. Since it reflects only the first three months of the 2019-2021 strategic plan, no reporting on outcomes was provided. Outcome reporting will be included at least annually. Overall, objectives for each strategic priority and operational imperative are on track, except Strategic Priority #2: Accountability in Accreditation, which has experienced some disruption due to delays in hiring a consultant to develop the assessment process, and the creation of a second draft of the Report of the AU Task Force which now requires further consultation.

CEO Group

Jim Landrigan, chair of the CEO Group, presented a summary of their recent meeting. The group received presentations on consultations for Strategic Priority 3: Recruitment, Retention, and the Professional Development of Women in the Engineering Profession, BC Professional Governance Act, APEGA/ASET mediations, the handling of private information by regulators, the EHRC Leadership Accord, the international competency review report, and entrepreneurship. They also reviewed the report of the Funding Task Force and discussed the recommendations. The group felt the report was well done and laid out the facts in a cogent fashion. They collectively supported motions a), b) and d) but could not reach a consensus on motion c).

Presidents Group

Serge Dupuis, chair of the Presidents Group, presented a summary of the presidents' meeting. The group received presentations on territorial recognition, an update on the Engineers Canada 2019 budget, and the BC Professional Governance Act. The group discussed the 30 by 30 data request from the last meeting, presidents onboarding by Engineers Canada, regulator-affinity relationship, the performance of government-appointed council members, and presidents acting as Engineers Canada directors. The group also updated their terms of reference.

Unallocated affinity revenue and Engineers Canada's reserves

PEO Council has decided not to participate in the home and auto insurance program and will therefore not accept sponsorship monies derived from the program. This required the Engineers Canada Board to determine what to do with these funds. This was resolved when the Board carried a motion to recognize the \$2.14M currently in accounts payable as Engineers Canada revenue in the 2019 fiscal year.

In addition, the Board also carried motions to:

- Approve the closing of “the capital reserve for purchase of assets” reserve and the transfer of its current balance of \$250,000 to the unrestricted reserves.
- Approve the closing of the “other internally restricted” reserve and the transfer of its current balance of \$211,400 to the unrestricted reserves.
- Direct the proposed Finance, Audit, and Risk (FAR) Committee to develop, for approval of the Board, an official net asset policy to determine the level of net assets required to mitigate identified risks and fund anticipated major projects.

As reported during the April Board teleconference meeting, an accounting error under-represented the amount in unrestricted revenues by approximately \$1M. Engineers Canada started the 2019 budget year believing there was \$1M in unrestricted reserves, and budgeted expenditures to bring this to slightly below zero. The accounting error would have meant the 2019 budgeted deficit would create a negative balance in the unrestricted reserves of approximately \$1M. However, with the recognition of the sponsorship monies as revenue, the budget deficit is closed, and unrestricted reserves will be approximately \$1M. Errors such as this are expected to be avoided in the future by aligning how Engineers Canada presents financials to how our auditors report them. This should more readily surface discrepancies.

Funding Task Force

The creation of the Funding Task Force was due in part to concerns from some regulators about the transparency of the contracts and revenues generated and distributed as part of the affinity programs. With the renegotiation of the affinity contract with TD Insurance and the significant increases in revenue, questions arose regarding the appropriateness of the significant funding of Engineers Canada through affinity revenue and whether a greater proportion of revenues generated by the affinity programs should be returned to the regulators of the jurisdiction where the revenue was generated.

The Board carried a motion to task the FAR committee with developing a policy that will limit the growth of the operational budget (excluding major projects) of Engineers Canada to an amount not greater than the rate of inflation, for consideration by the Board at its meeting of October 4, 2019. This would limit growth of the operational budget while any proposed future major projects would be funded through unrestricted reserves, following approval of the Board.

The Board also directed the FAR Committee to develop a policy that will cap the unrestricted reserve of Engineers Canada at \$2M (subject to periodic review) and propose options for the disposition of any amount above the \$2M, for consideration by the Board at its meeting of October 4, 2019.

The Board considered a motion to recommend to the Members, at their meeting of May 23, 2020, that the Engineers Canada By-law be changed to increase the Per Capita Assessment by 2 per cent

commencing in 2022 and increase by a further 2 per cent every year thereafter. This motion was discussed and deferred until the October meeting.

Finally, the Board carried a motion to stand down the Funding Task Force with their thanks.

Governance, Strategic Planning, and Consultation Project

The final reports of the GSPC project were presented. These included the Final Governance 2.0 regulator-supported improvements, the strategic planning process, and the consultation program. Presentation of these documents represented closure of this project.

Board Policy Manual

The Board approved several new policies, and rescinded others that had been subsumed in a new policy or are no longer relevant. With these policies, the Board has a complete policy manual, and moves from a policy creation position to one of policy maintenance.

Sub-Strategy for Research

The Board approved a request to defer presentation of the sub-strategy for Operational Imperative 6: Actively Monitoring, Researching, and Advising on Changes and Advances that Impact the Canadian Regulatory Environment and the Engineering Profession, from February 2020 to May 2020.

Accreditation Criteria

The Board approved changes to Accreditation criterion, 3.1.5, changing the word “cycle” to “period” For some HEI’s, “cycle” can mean something specific to them, especially in French. This change reduces potential confusion or misinterpretation. The criterion now reads:

- 3.1.5 Assessment results: At least one set of assessment results must be obtained for all twelve attributes over a period of six years or less. The results should provide clear evidence that graduates of a program possess the above list of attributes.

Generative Discussion

Annette Bergeron introduced the topic of the generative discussion as threats to self regulation. David Brown opened, referencing a governance review underway at PEO, along with issues surrounding self regulation. Kathy Baig followed by discussing the OIQ trusteeship and the issues that came with working through that. Tony Chong discussed Engineers and Geoscientists BC’s recent governance review, and the implementation of the new Professional Governance Act. A lengthy discussion followed, with several points raised, including:

- A modern, relevant model to self regulation needs to be developed. We don’t have the answers, but we know what issues need to be addressed.
- The pros and cons of self regulation should be examined, considering public perception and the public’s understanding of what “regulating in the public interest” means.

- Consideration of what is being regulated should be given. There are many types of engineering and ways of doing engineering work, and not all are being regulated or fall within the current purview of regulators.
- It is important to reflect on engineering errors and mistakes in order to learn and innovate going forward and consider what this means for the profession.
- Practice review can be costly and does not often uncover issues. Organizational self-audits could be an additional tool, but the public may not see them as objective.

Stakeholder presentations

[Presentations](#) were provided by key stakeholders:

- Jim Nicell, Chair, National Council of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science
- Dani Lake, President, Canadian Federation of Engineering Students
- Mary Leigh Wolfe, President, Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology
- Andrea Waldie, CEO, Geoscientists Canada
- Brian Robertson, Western Zone President, National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying
- Michael Aitken, President, National Society of Professional Engineers
- John Gamble, CEO, Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada.

Annual Meeting of Members

Audit Committee

The 2018 audited financial statements were approved, and KPMG was appointed as the 2019 auditors.

Updates to the by-law

The by-law was amended to:

- Remove the right of the Minister of Industry to deliver a list of nominees for the Board and for one of their nominees to sit as a director on the Board.
- Remove references to the Executive Committee.
- Remove mention of Ends in the by-law, an artefact of Policy Governance.
- Amend the by-law so that appointment of auditors occurs only at an Annual Meeting of Members, not every Meeting of Members.
- Removed the requirement that officers of the Board be Registrants of a Canadian engineering regulator.

Member presentations

At an earlier session, each member provided an overview of successes, lessons learned, best practices and challenges for the profession faced by their regulator. These presentations are [available on the Engineers Canada website](#).

Elections and appointments

Election of the President-Elect

Jean Boudreau was elected by the Board to the position of President-Elect.

Appointment of directors

The Members approved the following directors to the Board for the terms indicated:

- Kathy Baig, Quebec, 2019 – 2022
- David Lynch, Alberta, 2019 - 2021
- Kelly Reid, Ontario 2019 – 2022
- Changiz Sadr, Ontario 2019 – 2022
- Jane Tink, Alberta, 2019 – 2022
- Michael Wrinch, British Columbia, 2019 – 2022
- Chris Zinck, Nova Scotia, 2019 – 2022

Appointment of the Human Resources Committee

The following directors were appointed to the 2019-2020 Human Resources Committee:

- David Lynch
- Annette Bergeron
- Jean Boudreau
- Dwayne Gelowitz
- Dawn Nedohin-Macek

Appointments to the Qualifications Board

- Sloman, P.Eng. for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022 (representative for the Saskatchewan/Manitoba region)
- TBD, for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022 (representative for the Québec region)

Appointments to the Accreditation Board

- Pierre Lafleur, member-at-large - July 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2022 (term extension)
- Paula Klink, member-at-large – July 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2022 (term extension)
- Waguih H. ElMaraghy, member-at-large – July 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2022 (new member)
- John Allen Stewart, member-at-large – July 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2022 (new member)

Upcoming meetings

- June 27 – 28, 2019 Board Workshop (Whitehorse, YT)
- October 3-4, 2019 (Ottawa, ON)
- December 9, 2019 (Ottawa, ON)
- February 24-26, 2020 (Ottawa, ON)
- May 20 – 23, 2020 (Winnipeg, MB)