

Society Board Meeting Report

At the meeting of the Board of Directors on December 3, 2019 the following decisions and reports were made:

Report from the Chair

The Chair reviewed his written report, which was included in the meeting package. He noted recent events he attended such as the Ontario Building Officials Association Conference, Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia's Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM), Hispanotech's Women in Tech 5G Event, Ontario Economic Summit and Ryerson's Engineering Student Societies' Council of Ontario (ESSCO) student event. He also highlighted the very successful OSPE organized events including the EDI Imperative and Ontario Professional Engineers Awards Gala.

Report from the CEO

The CEO, S. Perruzza, reviewed his written report, which was included in the board package, highlighting operational, marketing and advocacy updates.

He attended the Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia Annual Conference and AGM and provided the Board an update on the proceedings. S. Perruzza and B. Shukla were in attendance in order to promote the engineering management program; however, were also asked about why Ontario has two separate organizations. At the AGM a member brought forward a motion to investigate this as a possibility for British Columbia. The motion to review the advantages and disadvantages of a structure with separate regulatory and advocacy bodies was approved by members.

S. Perruzza discussed changes in OSPE staff and membership numbers. He expects membership numbers to increase when professional development becomes mandatory. OSPE will be doing an acquisition campaign at the end of December now that the new website has launched. The new website will also feature video testimonials of members, which will be filmed on December 16th. Exchanges Hubs are continuing to grow and currently have 5 universities participating and 35 Ambassadors.

He noted in its first year, this government wasn't listening to experts. However, they are now interested in fixing their persona and want to be better listeners. Recently the Environment Minister created an advisory panel however no professional engineers were included. He noted OSPE would be drafting a letter in response.

S. Perruzza also addressed a rumor that has been circulating regarding PEO offering OSPE their Chapters, and OSPE refusing. He clarified that this rumor is not true. He added that some Chapter Executives have reached out individually and requested meetings. S. Perruzza is going to attend these meetings to understand what Chapters are looking for and what their goals are; however, he will not be making any commitments. Discussion ensued regarding the potential of OSPE taking over chapters. It was agreed that both OSPE and PEO need to make a statement to end the rumors, and it will be discussed at the next Joint Relations Committee meeting. It was also agreed that a Frequently Asked Questions' document will be created by OSPE staff in order to dispel rumors.

S. Perruzza discussed his recent business trip to London, England to meet with insurance underwriters. There has been a recent concern regarding increase of premiums, and some denied insurance. The meetings noted that Canada is a high-risk market because there is no mandatory professional development, there is an option to not carry liability insurance, and because individuals are able to practice outside of their main discipline. S. Perruzza will be sharing this information with PEO, the Attorney General and the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure.

A. Wojtyla noted the DiversifySTEM App currently has errors in its content and has requested OSPE review all content prior to taking ownership of the platform in the Spring.

Report from the Treasurer

T. Schierholtz, on behalf of the Treasurer, R. Clifton, reviewed the report, which was provided in the meeting package. The summary chart was reviewed noting no significant changes to the balance sheet and a stable statement of operations. He noted the committee has discussed the declining job board revenue and a new system is being reviewed and will be contracted shortly.

Report from the Membership Advisory Committee

B. Shukla reviewed the membership report, which was provided in the meeting package. He noted membership numbers are the highest they've been since the system removed lapsed members. Student memberships greatly increased in September due to frosh week initiatives; however, the conversion rate from students to new graduates is very low at approximately 12-15%. Video testimonials will be recorded on December 16th by 5 members who represent the personas developed by Halmyre and will be featured on the new website and in social media. B. Shukla noted an acquisition campaign would be happening after the holidays via mail and email to approximately 20,000 individuals.

B. Shukla reviewed the Exchange Hub presentation, which was provided in the meeting package. He noted the focus will be on the city in which the Hub is located and not just the university associated to it. Recruitment focus has been on students thus far; however, all members are welcome and recruitment efforts have started for all membership categories. It was suggested that the Hub Ambassadors have an evaluation in order to identify their contribution as leaders. They will also be responsible for recruitment of a second tier of Hub members to grow the network. It is expected that two hub events will take place by the next Board meeting and B. Shukla will provide another update at that time.

He highlighted a number of upcoming events including a young professionals' focus group in which R. Aimey would be attending. The expected outcome is increased insight in topics related to students and young professionals.

Proposed Motions to Rescind

J. Chisholm, who brought forward the motion to rescind, provided a written report which was included in the meeting package. He believes that the motion eliminated democracy by giving the Nominations Committee the power to nominate and elect the Board. S. Perruzza noted the Board Development and Strategic Planning Committee initially discussed and brought forward this recommendation as a best practice and a new standard in good board governance. He clarified that the slate of nominees would still go to the membership for an election and that the Nominations Committee is responsible for ensuring there is a slate of candidates in order to run an election. Discussion ensued. The proposed motion was defeated.

Nominations Committee

The Director of Operations, V. Mueller reviewed this item noting that the committee has reviewed and approved all material and that the changes are tracked and included in the meeting package. It was noted that the majority of changes were with respect to dates. One significant change in the 2020 election will be a shortened election period. The period previously was four weeks because of the timing requirements of mailing ballots out and returning the ballots via mail. However, voting now takes place online and four weeks is no longer required.

An error in the procedures document under item one, point two, was noted and corrected to include 'for automatic inclusion in the slate of candidates'.

The Board approves the 2020 Election Procedures, Schedule and Nomination Form, and Instructions for Candidate Material as amended.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force

A. Wojtyla brought forward a motion to rename the merged Women in Engineering Advocacy Champions Task Force and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee to the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. It was noted that this name is commonly used in industry.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda and supporting materials were received by the Board.

Directors' Questions

No questions were received.

Other Items

No other items were discussed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Society offices on Thursday March 5, 2019.

In Camera

The Board moved to go in camera and J. James will act as secretary.