



COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF BC

**Board Meeting Minutes January 24, 2012
Telephone Conference Call
Approved March 31, 2012**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENT: Dr. Dale Dergousoff
Dr. Tanya Flood
Dr. Kevin Youck
Dr. Nina Gill
Dr. Roger Gafur
Dr. Pardeep Dhillon
Dr. Robin Simpson, Registrar
Dr. Gerry Komarnicky, Registration Committee Chair
Mr. David MacPherson

- The Chair, Dr. D. Dergousoff called the meeting to order at 8:32pm. A quorum was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.
- The Chair, Dr. D. Dergousoff reminded the Board members that special rules were adopted that limit discussion to 3 minutes per person during the first round of debate and to two minutes per person during the second round. All discussions are directed towards the Chair.
- The Chair informed the board members that the matters to be discussed pertain to registration and for that reason he asked that the Registration Committee Chair be in attendance.

2. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION IN REGARDS TO DOCUMENTS SENT TO US BY CORA WITH RESPECT TO IOBP.

Dr. Simpson provided an explanation of what to place at the most recent CORA meeting regarding the College of Optometrists of Ontario's concerns about IOBP. The College in Ontario expressed their concerns about the program and appear to want to eliminate the IOBP program at the University of Waterloo as it currently operates.

Three questions were asked to each College by CORA as they were wanting feedback at the upcoming CORA meeting in Montreal on January 28, 2012.

- 1) Should IOBP applicants be required to have graduated from a program in optometry? This would eliminate those graduates of optician or ophthalmology programs.

Discussion lead to a general consensus that the board was in favor that only optometrists be considered by IOBP. But there was comment from a couple board members that they knew of students who were going through bridging program while they were in optometry school and they had no concerns about their abilities. In addition, the board was informed that we have not had a complaint against a registrant that has been through the IOBP program.

2) Would the College be in favour of eliminating the 8 week IOBP program and move to an Evaluating Exam that allows those students who score high enough to proceed directly to the CACO and place all the others in either a 1-year or 2-year bridging program?

Discussion lead to a general consensus that the Board was not in favour of eliminating the 8 week program.

3) Can we ensure that IOBP graduates have similar classroom education in anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, etc as North American students? In addition, can we ensure that IOBP graduates have similar clinical experiences to North American students.

Discussion lead to a general consensus that the College could not ensure that IOBP graduates had similar classroom and clinical experience as North American students.

Conference call adjourned at 9:35 pm.