



# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

## COUNCIL MEETING

CVBC Boardroom

210 – 10991 Shellbridge Way, Richmond

Friday, December 14, 2018

12:30 p.m.

### Minutes of the Open Meeting

**Council Members:** Dr. Brendan Matthews (President), Dr. Joanne Weetman (Vice-President)  
Ms. Lori Charvat, Dr. Maarten Hart and Dr. Sergije Prostran

**Regrets:** Mr. Wally Oppal, QC

**Staff:** Ms. Luisa Hlus (Registrar), Dr. Stacey Thomas (Deputy Registrar) and  
Ms. Sabrina Sylvester (Administrative Assistant)

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:41 p.m.

#### 2. ROUTINE PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

##### 2.1. Approval of the Open Agenda

**MOTION: THAT** the Open Agenda be approved with the power to add.

**MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED**

##### 2.2. Approval of the Minutes of the October 12, 2018 Open meeting

**MOTION: THAT** the Minutes of the October 12 2018 Open Council meeting be approved as distributed.

**MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED**

### 3. REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION / DECISION / DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Inspector Appointment

Brittany Harmening was hired to assume some of the facilities inspections in contemplation of Dr. Merv Wetzstein's retirement. The appointment is a prerequisite to exercising the powers contained in s. 49 and be afforded statutory liability protection in s. 71.

**MOTION: THAT** Brittany Harmening be appointed inspector pursuant to s. 49 of the *Veterinarians Act*.

**MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED**

Sabinder Sheina was hired in November 2018 as a staff lawyer; she has assumed the duties of Allison Maharaj, who will be leaving the CVBC on December 21, 2018. The staff lawyers conduct investigations on behalf of the CVBC and are required to have the powers of an inspector for that purpose.

**MOTION: THAT** Sabinder Sheina be appointed inspector pursuant to s. 49 of the *Veterinarians Act*, retroactive to November 27, 2018.

**MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED**

As a housekeeping matter, the following inspectors' appointments will be revoked as they are either no longer employed by the CVBC or their contracts are or have expired:

**MOTION: THAT** the inspector appointment of Allison Maharaj be revoked as of December 22, 2018.

**MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED**

**MOTION: THAT** the inspector appointment of Dr. Merv Wetzstein be revoked as of January 1, 2019.

**MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED**

**MOTION: THAT** the inspector appointment Dr. John Brocklebank be revoked retroactive to January 1, 2018.

**MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED**

**MOTION: THAT** the inspector appointment of Dr. Adrian King-Harris be revoked retroactive to May 1, 2016.

**MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED**

Inspectors who had been appointed under the previous legislation and did not operate under the current Act do not need to be part of the motion.

*[Note: two additional inspectors' names have subsequently come to the attention of the Registrar as needing appointments revoked.]*

### 3.2. New Policy – Committee Member Absences

The Registrar advised that the Bylaws contain a provision for non-attendance by elected council members, but there is no similar provision, nor a policy, for committee members.

In the past, Council members were apprised of non-attendance by committee members and would deal with them on an individual basis. Over the past 6 months, the office has adopted a policy of not sending agendas to regularly absent members unless they agree to attend meetings, as it can be detrimental to gain confidential knowledge without context.

It impairs committee function when members are absent, particularly when they do not review minutes of missed meetings and need to be caught up on the decisions in which they did not participate, in order to reach uniform results. Having a policy would make it easier to communicate expectations and replace non-attending members without appearing to be arbitrary.

Attendance is reflected in the minutes of meetings of the committees. It would be useful to have attendance logs created for each committee, for management and accounting purposes. These records would represent objective measures and support the creation of a culture of accountability and responsibility to make it easier for the committee chairs to manage meetings.

Does the provision for Council attendance allow too many absences? Should it be adopted for committees? Members can miss every 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, be considered compliant, yet that is insufficient for proper functioning of the committee and puts a strain on the other members to maintain perfect attendance.

The consensus is that if Council receives information that a committee member has either missed 3 consecutive meetings or 50% of meetings within a 12 month period, the chair should be consulted about recommending to Council that the subject member be dismissed from the committee.

The Terms of Reference is the appropriate place for setting out attendance and participation expectations. The office will redraft committee terms of reference to reflect the new expectation.

Should the chairs be held to a higher standard of attendance?

The group discussed a large number of committee appointments expiring in June 2019, as there were en masse appointments in September 2016. As a result, not reappointing those members will result in natural turnover.

The largest impact will be felt by the Discipline Committee, which has many members already having served beyond the maximum 6 or 9 years stipulated in the Bylaws.

As part of the annual license renewal process, registrants have an opportunity to volunteer for committees. The Deputy Registrar is developing a list of potential candidates.

**Direction:** The Registrar will provide Terms of Reference and lists of all committee members and candidates for the January agenda, for planning purposes.

### 3.3. CE Format Policy

The Deputy Registrar provided the CCC's policy for Council review and discussion. One member commented that the requirement for in person course attendance was onerous (cost and attendance time), perhaps without proven efficacy, and contravening Bylaw Part 4 s. 254. Another member pointed out that there are 3 types of learners – visual, auditory, and hands on and wondered how the CC's proposal addresses different learning styles.

The CCC member on Council reported that recent scientific evidence does support a newer approach in medicine called deliberate practice as improving learning by increasing engagement. The CCC came to the conclusion that asking registrants to spend 15 hours on in person education in a 2 year period is justified and not too onerous.

The Registrar reported that the CCC viewed a CLEAR webinar on principles of competency, which provided a good basis for recommending this policy.

It is considered desirable to set basic CE standards while acknowledging different ways of learning and reviewing the research on maintaining competency in a medical field. It is part of the CCC's mandate to oversee CE, so it is a matter of quantifying it.

The office in discussion with the SBCV for the offering of some mandatory CE based on current needs, such as antimicrobial stewardship. If the CCC and Council do not have the authority to make CE mandatory, the language used should reflect a strong recommendation coupled with justification, pending a bylaw amendment. There is a concern that the CVBC not be seen to require a CE and then profit from it. By arranging a third party provider and making the cost only so high as to cover administrative expenses, without making a profit, this optic might be avoided. For antimicrobial stewardship, it is the topic which will be urged, not a particular course.

Is it fair to require RACE approval? "RACE" stands for Registered Accredited Continuing Education.

**Direction:** The Registrar and Deputy Registrar to check how the CCC policy meshes with the bylaws.

### 3.4. Anesthetic Monitoring Standard

This item was returned from the previous meeting as requiring further work. The merits of mandatory pulse oximeters to measure oxygenation were discussed. The machines are inexpensive and easy to use. They do not supplant observation during surgery, but are a valuable indicator. Capnometers provide an earlier warning system but are more difficult to use. Oximeters cannot be used during dental procedures, so an exception needs to be provided.

**MOTION: TO** approve the Anesthetic Monitoring Guidelines as revised, to be published to the profession as soon as possible, to be effective March 1, 2019.

**MOVED/SECONDED                      CARRIED**

#### **4. REPORTS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION**

##### **4.1. President's Report**

The organization has made significant strides over the past 3 years, particularly under the current leadership. Council has been handling difficult issues and continues to move in the right direction. It is well positioned to meet looming challenges with thoughtfully developed policies and procedures which are fair and unbiased.

The recent Dental Standard may need to be revisited soon, based on comments received from boarded specialists. In particular, the requirement of dental x-ray machines and personnel trained and knowledgeable in their use and interpretation is called for.

It is hoped that the focus of the organization will soon be able to shift from repercussions of past events to strategic planning for the future.

The Vice President reported on the NEB. Most meetings involve the discussion of appeals. The limitations of examination procedures are also a topic of discussion. Few locations offer exams (In Canada, only Alberta and Quebec). Could the NAVLE process be used to teach grads from unaccredited schools? It is a very expensive mechanism with limited availability and efficacy. Alberta has limited licensure and a mentorship program to bridge the time period and offer additional learning opportunities. It is not known how mentors are approved, to avoid potential problems.

Some US jurisdictions as well as Nova Scotia consider the accreditation process for foreign graduates to be too onerous. There are talks about ameliorating this effect by offering limited licensure to abbreviate the process. The NEB is canvassing regulators for input. The Registrar confirmed that Canadian regulators are considering how to modify licensure while protecting the public.

##### **4.2. Registrar's Report**

The Registrar reported that work on Bylaw drafting would commence in February 2019. Until then, she will be occupied with late payment processing and new staff onboarding.

The CABRO office is behind in many public member appointments, including those required for health professions colleges. It is not known whether new appointments will be had for the next meeting, but under the *Veterinarians Act* (unlike the *Health Professions Act*), Council can function without public members if necessary.

The election is underway with 4 candidates to fill 2 Council positions. Results will be known in early February. The CVBC is able to receive reports on voter turnout but not on voting results. Regular follow ups are planned to promote voter turnout.

4.3. Report on Name Approvals

The report was received for information.

4.4. Report on New Registrants

The report was received for information.

4.5. Report on Change of Registration Class

The report was received for information.

4.6. Task List

The report was received for information.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

5.1. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on January 25, 2019.

The open meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.