

**MASSACHUSETTETS BOARD REGISTRATION IN OPTOMETRY  
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 20, 2015  
1000 Washington Street, Boston  
Conference Room 1C

**Board Members:**

Bruce Rakusin, OD, Chairman  
Gordon Price, OD  
Scott Peterson, Esq., Acting Secretary

**DPL Staff:**

Rachael Pauze, Board Counsel  
Monique Brown, Office Support Specialist  
Pam Mogavero, Investigator  
Colleen Cavanaugh, Assoc. Exec. Director

**Board Members Absent:**

Wayne E. Zahka, OD  
Paul Elliott, OD

**Others**

Gary Chu, OD – New England College of Optometry  
Richard Lawless - MSO

Meeting Called to order at 10:22 am

**Evacuation Procedure:** Colleen Cavanaugh discussed safety procedures in the event of emergency.

**Review of Minutes: April 15, 2015:**

Dr. Price moved to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2015 meeting. Dr. Rakusin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Report from Associate Executive Director:**

Ms. Cavanaugh discussed the proposed outreach meeting for June 17, 2015 relative to potential changes to the Board's regulations

**Board Counsel's Report:**

Ms. Pauze discussed the Board's option to delegate execution of the final decisions and orders in default cases to Board Staff. Dr. Price moved to delegate execution of the final decisions and orders in default cases to Board Staff. Dr. Rakusin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Dr. Chu/New England College of Optometry:**

Dr. Gary Chu appeared before the Board and gave a presentation. Dr. Chu proposed more interaction between the Board and the New England College of Optometry. Dr. Chu suggested that Board members meet with students before their fourth year to discuss licensure, the role of the Board, and CE obligations. Dr. Chu suggested that the Board review their regulations against the backdrop of current academic curriculum and standards. Dr. Chu spoke about reciprocity in the context of faculty recruitment and the hardship and challenges the college experiences. Finally, Dr. Chu spoke about the inconsistency of the pass rates for Part I of the NBEO exam over the past 5 years and possible reasons for the same.

**Correspondence:**

1. License upgrade request from Steven M. Siegal, OD. Dr. Rakusin moved to grant Dr. Siegal TPA certification. Dr. Price seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Question from Jessica Stenja – Scope of practice question regarding cataract surgery. The Board discussed the question, with input from Dr. Chu and Richard Lawless. Dr. Chu confirmed that the New England College of Optometry teaches suture removal. Rachael Pauze will prepare a response.
3. Email from Michael Charron – The Board discussed the questions posed by Mr. Charron regarding OD partnership with dispensing opticians or ophthalmologists. The Board indicated that partnerships between dispensing opticians and optometrist are not permitted. Board counsel will respond to the questions.

**Deputy Director**

The new Deputy Director, Robert Fortes, introduced himself to the Board.

**11:35 A.M/ Closed Session:**

Dr. Rakusin moved to enter a closed investigative session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, s. 65C for the purpose of discussing the following cases: OP-15-001, OP-15-003 and OP-15-004. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

At the end of the closed session, the open meeting resumed.

During the closed session, the board took the following actions:

- OP-15-001 – Table
- OP-15-003 – Table
- OP-15-004 – Table

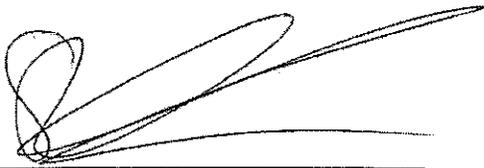
**Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance meeting:**

Board requested update from executive director on PCS testing issues. Topic will appear under executive director's report for next meeting.

**Next Board Meeting:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in Boston.

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:35 pm, by Dr. Rakusin, seconded by Dr. Price. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Scott D. Peterson, Esq.  
Acting Secretary

Documents used in public session:

Agenda

Draft Minutes from meeting April 15, 2015

Email from Marianne O'Sullivan dated 03/27/2015

Email from Vandhana Sharda dated 04/06/2015

Notice from Gary Chu, OD outlining topics, undated.

E-mail from Michael Charron, dated 5/14/2015

Draft Notice of Meeting for June 17, 2015