

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
ILLINOIS STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING BOARD MINUTES

**Open Minutes**

Structural Engineering Board

Date: May 25, 2021  
Convened: 9:03 am  
Adjourned: 12:37 pm  
Location: WEBEX

Members Present: Chad Hodel, Chair  
David J. Carroll, Vice-Chair  
David R. Bibbs, Member  
Steven E. Bishop, Member  
Salvatore Di Bernardo, Member  
Christine Freisinger, Member

Member(s) Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kyle Lazell, Design Licensing Manager  
Haley Lowrance, IDFPR General Counsel  
Eduardo Fernandez, IDFPR Prosecuting Attorney  
Roy Cepero, IDFPR Investigator

Guests Present: Stephanie Crain, SEAIO  
Jan Block, SEAIO

Open Session: The Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am.  
Roll Call: The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

**I. Board Member  
Announcements,  
comments**

Mr. Hodel welcomed everyone for attending and asked if Ms. Freisinger would introduce herself to the Board.

Ms. Freisinger stated that she is a licensed Structural Engineer and Professional Engineer, lives in Chicago, has been involved with SEAIO for 10 years and specializes in forensic engineering. She also said she looks forward to serving on the Board.

**II. Guest Announcements,  
comments**

Ms. Crain said she is pleased to hear that Ms. Freisinger has been appointed to the Licensing Board and wishes her well.

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**III. Licensing Manager Report**

A. FY22 CRC Schedule

A. Mr. Lazell notified the Board that he recently sent the FY2022 CRC meeting schedule to the members to show who has signed up thus far as a delegate for the CRC meetings. He also gave Ms. Freisinger a brief overview of the CRC process.

B. Board Member replacement update

B. Mr. Lazell shared that the Director's office is in the process of lining up interviews for a number of potential replacements for multiple professions and this profession is one of them.

C. Legislative News

C. Mr. Lazell shared that there are few legislative Bills for the Board to be aware of.

HB 2776 – Military Licensure. Will provide an expedited process for licensure.

HB 1738 – Interior Design Registration. This is the Sunset renewal Bill for the profession. Passed in the House, currently being read in the Senate. No known issues/conflict for this profession.

HB 0246 – Landscape Architect Registration. Bill to re-regulate profession. Passed in the House, Senate committee has postponed it at this time.

D. NCEES 16-hour exam administration update

D. Mr. Lazell informed the Board that NCEES has notified him that as of January 2022, all jurisdictions that offer the 16-hour examination must allow NCEES to solely function as the exam administrator and proctor for the exam. If this is unable to be accomplished, this exam would no longer be able to be offered under the Illinois Jurisdiction. Since IDFPR currently contracts with Continental Testing Services for all NCEES examinations, this will require a change to the current/future contract. He indicated that he would notify the Board at the next meeting of the progress for the requested change.

**IV. Review of Open Minutes**

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 23, 2021 meeting. Motion was made, seconded (Bishop/Di Bernardo) and passed to accept the open minutes of the meeting as amended. Roll Call: The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

## V. Unfinished Business

### A. Continued discussion on decoupling examinations

Mr. Lazell provided a summary of the proposed change and shared the email communication between himself and Mr. Tim Miller of NCEES pertaining to the question of potential pass-rate issues with regard to decoupling, as well as a reply comment from Mr. Hodel.

Mr. Hodel stated that he attended the NCEES Central Zone meeting and attended a breakout session which discussed the decoupling topic.

Mr. Lazell shared that this topic was also discussed in the MBA breakout session and indicated that an additional 7-8 state Boards have pending legislation to allow for decoupling. This would add to the already 39+ state Boards that currently are decoupled in some capacity.

Mr. Hodel said that his concern about a long-term pass rate issue remains and that he believes there might be additional concerns that arise over time. However, he indicated that he does not believe this possible issue should prohibit the change from occurring and will support the Board's recommendation.

Mr. Carroll commented that he does see how making this change would affect the way a candidate becomes licensed and would support the change.

Mr. Bishop asked if SEAOI has an opinion on the matter.

Ms. Crain provided an SEAOI position statement indicating that they generally support the move to decouple the examination requirement from the license process, provided that certain safeguards remain in effect and the candidate meets all requirements at the time of application. She also mentioned that the SEAOI Board determined that adopting this change would allow candidates the ability to plan exams around family planning and maternity/paternity leave.

Mr. Bishop indicated that while he initially was against this proposal, after hearing the discussions with the Board and reviewing the comments from Tim Miller, being a member of the EPP committee and hearing from other states who have already decoupled - that they see it has a good thing, he would support a recommendation to approve the change as he does not believe this would be a hindrance to the profession.

Mr. Di Bernardo agreed with Mr. Bishop saying that he was against this change at first, but now is in favor of the change as

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while candidates must satisfy the requirements necessary for licensure, allowing them to satisfy those requirements when it fits into their specific personal life schedule would remove potential “time” and clerical hurdles. He further said he would be willing to draft a Board position statement recommending to decouple the examinations for the Structural Engineer profession.

Mr. Lazell thanked the Board and SEAOL for the discussions on this topic.

**VI. Report from  
Subcommittees**

**A. Complaint Review  
Committee/subcommittee**

A. Complaint Review Committee/subcommittee  
Mr. Di Bernardo reported on the May 20, 2021 meeting.

Complaint Statistics based on recommendations from the March meetings for each profession:

Architect: Opened 6, Closed 0, Referred 11  
LS: Opened 2, Closed 2, Referred 1  
PE: Opened 5 Closed 0, Referred 6  
SE: Opened 0, Closed 0, Referred 3  
PDF: Opened 0, Closed 0, Referred 0

Complaints currently under investigation:

Architect – 15  
LS – 10  
PE – 18  
SE - 6  
PDF – 0

Cases currently being prosecuted:

Architect – 26  
LS – 5  
PE – 18  
SE – 9

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B. Rules Subcommittee: Mr. Carroll said that the committee has been finalizing a draft report on Section 1480.210 – Standards of Professional Conduct to send out to the members for review and comment and said it would be completed and sent to Mr. Lazell to circulate to the members prior to the next meeting.

**VII. New Business**

A. NCEES Central Zone Meeting Report Mr. Hodel stated that he attended the meeting along with Mr. Bishop and Mr. Lazell. He provided a summary of the meeting and said it was informative but was difficult to communicate with others since it was conducted virtually.

B. NCEES Annual Meeting Update & Delegate Selection Mr. Lazell provided an update to the Board that each Board can now send three funded delegates due to recent easing of restrictions in place in New Orleans and CDC guidelines. He reminded the members that the meeting will be consist solely of the official business sessions and there will be no break-out sessions or other amenities.

He requested the Board member names who would function as the delegates for the Board.

After discussion, Mr. Hodel, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Bibbs indicated they would be willing to attend as the Board delegates.

C. Review of IDFPR clarification document regarding Forensic Engineering Mr. Lazell provided the Board with a draft document for review, noting that this is strictly for internal department use to assist with training of employees to better determine when certain aspects of forensic engineering would rise to the level of being outside the scope of practice for the PE profession. He requested that the SE Board review it as well to additionally provide feedback.

Mr. Hodel said he reviewed the document and stated that in his opinion, the document as currently written, would limit the ability for a Board member to make a sound determination about experience as each project & candidate are inherently unique. He additionally commented that having a broad view of the topic allows the Board to review experience on the merits of that specific project.

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The Board discussed and recommended that the Department continue to rely on the expertise of the Board in deciding if the experience is acceptable.

Mr. Lazell thanked the Members for the discussion & recommendation and said he would relay this information to the PE Board at their meeting as well as with his staff.

D. Discussion of the 082  
Structural Engineer  
Intern Designation

Mr. Lazell shared that during a previous conversation with Mr. Di Bernardo, the topic of when an SEI candidate is eligible to sit for the FE exam under the SE Act/Rules and how it contrasts with the PE Act/Rules.

He asked the Board to consider aligning the requirements to be consistent with the PE profession.

The Board discussed the topic and recommended that the Department revise the requirements and language in Section 1480.135 of the Rules.

E. Emeritus Status  
discussion

Mr. Hodel asked the Board to consider granting David Greifzu Emeritus Status to enable him to volunteer on NCEES committees should he desire - given his exceptional service to the Board over nine years, participating on the NCEES structural engineer examination review committee as well as several other committees over the years.

Motion was made, seconded (Di Bernardo/Bishop) and passed to grant David Greifzu Emeritus Status. Roll Call: The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

**Motion to go into Closed  
Session:**

Motion was made, seconded (Di Bernardo/Carroll) and passed to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2c (4) & (15) of the Open Meetings Act at 12:06 pm.

**VIII. Closed Session:**

Roll Call.

The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

A. Review of Closed Minutes

The Board reviewed the closed minutes of the March 23, 2021 meeting.

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B. Application Review

The Board did not review any applications.

**Motion to go into Open Session:**

Motion was made, seconded (Carroll/Bishop) and passed to go into Open Session at 12:29 pm. Roll Call - The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

**Motion to accept Recommendations:**

Motion was made, seconded (Bibbs/Carroll) and passed to accept the recommendations made in Closed Session. Roll Call - The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

**Motion to keep Closed Minutes closed:**

Motion was made, seconded (Di Bernardo/Carroll) and passed to keep the closed minutes closed. Roll Call - The Board Members present constituted a quorum of the Board.

**IX. Reminders**

Mr. Lazell reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2021.

**X. Adjournment**

Motion was made, seconded (Bibbs/Bishop) and passed to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.