



College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

COUNCIL MEETING

Video Conference

Friday, July 17, 2020

Minutes of the Open Meeting

- Council Members:** Dr. Josh Waddington (President), Dr. Doris Leung (Vice President), Mr. Chris Finding (Treasurer), Ms. Lori Charvat, Mr. Gian Sihota, Dr. Michele Martin, Dr. Jane Mancell and Mr. Gary Kobayashi (joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m.)
- Guest:** Dr. Nancy DeWith, Animal Health Veterinary Officer – British Columbia Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Staff:** Dr. Jane Pritchard (Interim Registrar), Dr. Stacey Thomas (Deputy Registrar) and Ms. Rosalee Magcalas (Executive Assistant)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Waddington at 10:10 a.m. and advised Council that registrant Dr. Nancy DeWith will be sitting in on the Open meeting as well as offering a brief presentation.

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. Discussion of Consent Agenda

Not discussed.

2.3. Minutes of the May 29, 2020 Open Meeting

Council requested that slight changes be made to the May 29, 2020 minutes, which include:

- Heading to Section 3. Reports Requiring Council Action /**D**ecision /Discussion
- Section 3.2 Advertising Standard, to amend the Direction 'inspectors to ignore Facebook reviews and not insist that they facilities disable this function.'

MOTION: THAT the Minutes of the May 29, 2020 Open Council meeting be approved as amended.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

Direction: For the office to make the required changes to the May 29, 2020 Open Meeting Minutes and post them to the website.

3. REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION/DECISION/DISCUSSION

3.1 Council Appointment – Gary Kobayashi

The Interim Registrar introduced the newly appointed public member to Council, Mr. Kobayashi, who briefly introduced himself.

Council welcomed Gary and both Council and staff introduced themselves to both Mr. Kobayashi and Dr. DeWith.

3.2 Verbal Presentation by Nancy DeWith

The Council President introduced Dr. Nancy DeWith, the new CFIA Animal Health Veterinary Officer for BC and a CVBC registrant to the meeting.

Dr. Waddington informed Council that he had a working relationship with Dr. DeWith when she was employed by the Ministry of Agriculture. In the past, the CVBC has not had a strong working relationship with the CFIA and he thought it was an opportune time to work on changing this.

Dr. DeWith gave Council an overview of the CFIA and the various branches across Canada and indicated her willingness to strengthen the working relationship with the CVBC as well as it is the responsibility of BC veterinarians to report suspected diseases to the CFIA. In addition, Dr. DeWith expressed that a close relationship with the CVBC would enable information to be disseminated to registrants in a timely and efficient manner.

3.3 CVBC Additional Lease Space

The Interim Registrar and Deputy Registrar informed Council that they recently signed a Lease Proposal to take over a portion of an existing office space on the 3rd floor, above the current CVBC offices. This space would allow for a larger boardroom to act as a meeting space when in-person meetings resume and allow for social distancing.

In addition, it would also be a hearing facility for the Discipline Committee, which now has to secure hotel meeting rooms at a rate of approximately \$300 to \$400 per day and these bookings do not allow for return of the fees if a hearing is cancelled. The additional office space would also allow for 2 additional offices and storage space which would allow CVBC files currently in storage in North Vancouver to be housed onsite.

Additionally, the current boardroom could be turned into workstations to allow for the growth in employees and the need for social distancing.

This search started approximately 2 years ago with the previous Registrar and the College has been waiting for space to free up. Space on the upper floor became available in January with a proposal being presented initially in March, at the same time as the COVID outbreak, and was temporarily put on hold.

The Airport Executive Park management company reached out to the CVBC to advise that there is additional interest in the space and encouraged the CVBC to come to a decision. As a result, this matter is being brought to Council for their input and decision on whether to proceed in securing this space.

Council queried if the leasing of this space would save the CVBC money and requested that a cost summary be prepared to show what is being expended now and what the costs would be with the new lease space. Council also questioned that in going forward, if virtual meetings continue, there would be no need for the increase in space. Additionally, the pandemic has placed many businesses in a predicament of having to either close or to cut the space leased and with an influx of office space in the Lower Mainland, the College may be able to negotiate a better deal elsewhere.

Direction: For the office to provide Council, via email, with a full cost summary of what the CVBC is currently paying to secure hotel meeting rooms for hearings, cost of storage, etc. and comparing that to the monthly lease rate for the space on the 3rd floor, renovation costs, etc., within a week in order for Council to make an informed decision. Council will advise the Interim Registrar and Deputy Registrar of its decision whether to proceed with leasing the space on the 3rd floor or not.

3.4 Advertising Standard

The Deputy Registrar advised Council that since its May 29 meeting, she had worked on amending the Advertising Standard as well as the Guide and FAQ to align the 2 competing definitions of ‘testimonial’ prohibition noted in the bylaws and the Advertising Standards to reflect ‘client testimonials’.

The proposed amended Standard now allows for social media-based public reviews, which show positive and negative reviews and cannot be changed or deleted by the facilities, allowing the consumer to make an informed decision for themselves. Council agreed that this Standard and Guide were well written and require no further revisions at this time.

MOTION: TO accept the revisions to the Standard and accompanying Guide to the Standard as presented.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

Direction: To post the revised documents to the website and to message the changes to the registrants via newsletter/eblast at the earliest opportunity.

3.5 Personal Use Accounts

The Interim Registrar along with Dr. Martin opened a dialogue with AVP and are now working towards the development of a Standard regarding Personal Use Accounts. AVP was very appreciative of being consulted and included in the development of this Standard. Through this discussion with AVP, Drs. Pritchard and Martin were of the understanding that there is only a small number of registrants that have PUAs.

The Interim Registrar would like this process to be as open and transparent as possible and suggested putting a call out to any registrant who may be interested in assisting in developing this Standard. Interested parties would then attend a virtual meeting to discuss the direction and what should be included, with the Interim Registrar then developing a Standard to bring

back to the group for further discussion and changes, prior to a final version being presented to Council and ultimately to all registrants.

Direction: To put a call out to registrants through the CVBC's Summer Newsletter, for volunteers to provide input on the development of a Personal Use Accounts Standard as well as developing a timeline for each step going forward.

3.6 Registration Classification to Support Foreign Trained Veterinarians

As the issue of systemic racism is currently at the forefront of public consciousness, the College needs to look at and implement changes to the way it supports the hiring of foreign trained veterinarians. Canada cannot meet the demand for trained veterinarians, especially in BC, so jurisdictions tend to 'poach' from other areas in Canada and the United States, but we need to look to other countries even more going forward.

While other provinces in Canada have a specific classification for foreign trained veterinarians to practice in their jurisdictions, British Columbia does not. By having the CVBC create a Limited Practice License, it would allow foreign trained veterinarians to work under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, thereby gaining hands-on experience. The initial period of registration under this class could be limited to 6 months, but may be extended by the Registrar upon written request in 6 month intervals for a total period of not more than 24 months. The written request must provide an explanation on how the Limited Practice Licensee is progressing and why extending the time practicing under this limited license is required.

After 12 months, the Registration Committee can be petitioned by the supervising veterinarian to have the supervision restrictions relaxed, with documentation provided to the Committee to support this request.

Council discussed how the CVBC could monitor this type of licensing relationship to ensure that the supervising veterinarian is providing sufficient supervision and is present during examinations and procedures. There also needs to be safeguards in place to prevent abuse of this type of licensure and the foreign trained veterinarians would need to be compensated fairly by the facility with the practice facility possibly having to apply to have a foreign trained veterinarian practice at their facility.

The CVBC must be cautious in setting standards for preceptors as it can quickly become subjective. Objective standards would have to possibly include being the Designated Registrant, in good standing, a certain number of years in practice, amongst others to be determined. A bylaw change will have to be implemented once this class of registration is approved, but the presentation of this addition of registration class to Council is just a starting point and requires more work to develop a more inclusive and diverse profession.

As the CVBC will be the last jurisdiction to adopt this licensure, we can draw the positives from each province and find out what is not working for them and what they would change if they had the opportunity.

Direction: To have the Interim Registrar reach out to the other jurisdictions to obtain positives and negatives to this type of licensure. To move it along to the Registration Committee for input at their August meeting and work on the development and bring it back to Council at its September 11, 2020 meeting.

4. REPORTS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

- 4.1 Report on New Registrants
- 4.2 Change of Registration Class Report
- 4.3 Name Approvals
- 4.4 Report on Facilities, Closed, New & Reaccredited

Council is concerned with the backlog of reaccreditation of facilities. If these facilities are inspected virtually, will there still be a requirement to inspect them in person once it is safe to do so? Council discussed that there are some low-risk facilities that can be reaccredited virtually this cycle and inspected in-person in their next 5-years cycle.

- 4.5 Task List

5. ADJOURNMENT

- 5.1 Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday September 11, 2020.

MOTION: THAT the Open meeting be closed at 12:25 p.m., meeting was adjourned for lunch until 1:00 p.m.