



College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

COUNCIL MEETING

Video Conference

Friday, June 16th, 2023

Minutes of the Open Meeting

- Council Members:** Dr. Jane Pritchard (President), Dr. Michele Martin (Vice President), Mr. Gian Sihota (Treasurer), Dr. Josh Waddington, Mr. Harinder Mahil, Dr. Justin McLash and Ms. Kari Michaels
- Regrets:** Ms. Christine Arnold
- Staff:** Dr. Megan Bergman (Registrar & CEO), Dr. Stacey Thomas (Deputy Registrar) & Ms. Rosalee Magcalas (Executive Assistant)
- Guests:** Ms. Amanda Barker, BCVTA

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Pritchard at 10:02 a.m.

2. ROUTINE PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Council would like to respectfully acknowledge that we work and live on the traditional ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish, Squamish, Sechelt, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh nations and we acknowledge all other first nations in British Columbia.

Brief introductions were made between Council and Ms. Michaels.

2.2 Approval of the Open Agenda

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

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

2.3 President's Remarks

Waiving her comments.

2.4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Dr. Martin requested that item 4.4, the Report on Practice Facility Accreditations, be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

MOTION: THAT the Open Consent Agenda be approved as amended with items 2.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.5.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

2.5. Minutes of the April 21st, 2023 Open Council Meeting

MOTION: THAT the Minutes of the April 21st, 2023 Open Council meeting be approved as distributed.

MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED

Direction: To post the approved April 21st, 2023 open meeting minutes.

3. ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION/DECISION/DISCUSSION

3.1. Update from the BCVTA

Ms. Barker provided an update from the BCVTA's meetings held in May and June and thanked Dr. Bergman for attending the June meeting. There was a debrief on the AGM held in April and everyone involved was pleased and saw it as a success as it was the first in-person AGM that this board has held. She advised that there is discussion that the 2024 meeting will be moved from Thompson Rivers University in April, to possibly Abbotsford in May, which will allow the BCVTA to present their financials at that time.

Ms. Barker further advised Council that the BCVTA is developing a professionalism and ethics course, implementing an in-camera policy and have booked their strategic planning session.

3.2. Updated CE Approval Criteria Policy

This policy has been amended to allow for greater flexibility in CE content, recognizing that there are more fields within the practice in veterinary medicine than clinical practice. The criteria has been amended to be broader with the revision of Section II. A. d) to read '.....field of practice of veterinary medicine (e.g., Clinical practice, government, industry, teaching, research, etc.)'. The CCC has approved this change, and now requires Council's approval.

MOTION: TO approve the Continuing Competence Committee's proposed amendment to the content requirement of the CVBC's Continuing Education Approval Criteria Policy, effective immediately.

MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED

Direction: To post the Policy on the website and put into use.

3.3. Council & Committee Fall Workshop

After the last meeting and discussion with Dr. Klemmensen, a survey was circulated to Council for input on what Council is looking to get out of the session with her. Five themes were identified for Council's input. 1) building bonds; 2) alignment on group expectations and norms; 3) clarity on the CVBC's primary role; 4) strategic planning themes; 5) Diversity, Equality and Inclusion.

Council identified that an in-person meeting - although more costly - would be more valuable for the College and the participants. The capacity to allow for participation virtually should be incorporated for those who are not able to attend in person. The fact that the Annual General Meeting will strictly be held virtually this year will alleviate costs on that front.

The Committee members will be sent a ‘save the date’ notification for Friday October 20th, with an invitation containing full details to follow.

Council is comfortable proceeding with booking Dr. Klemmensen and are happy to see how she intends the day to run, but will would like to arrange for a lunchtime EDI guest speaker rather than to host a dinner session, to allow participants time to travel home and to manage costs. CVBC staff will begin work identifying an appropriate venue.

Direction: To reach out to Dr. Klemmensen to reserve her services and advise that the College would like to invite an EDI speaker over lunch. Staff to look into venues and their costs, food options, audio visual assistance to facilitate a hybrid option.

3.4. Publication Policy

The present issue before Council is regarding publication of pre-hearing decisions which are relevant (as precedent) both for the College legal counsel as well as registrant legal counsel in the course of a hearing. It would be beneficial to post these decisions. Legal counsel has advised that while the Act and bylaws are silent on publication of pre-hearing decisions, the CVBC Council has the ability to direct publication of information that it deems to be in the public interest. Council is being asked to consider whether or not they feel publication of prehearing decisions would be of value to registrants and the public.

Council discussed the importance of being mindful of publication concerns that have been identified by registrants. Discussion was had around the possibility of redacting names and any identifiers in the postings while ensuring the important aspects of the decision are reflected for reference by legal counsel for the College and for registrants. Sharing prehearing decisions will demonstrate if the Discipline Committee has made a decision on a certain matter before and may reduce duplication of effort and better inform participants on the expected hearing standards.

Council requested that any decision be held off until Council is able to better understand the content presented in a prehearing decision. The Registrar has provided a draft amendment to the current CVBC Website Publication Policy that includes the publication of pre-hearing decisions for Council consideration but will hold off on requesting approval until Council has had an opportunity to review and consider the matter further.

Direction: The Registrar will provide additional information for Council to review.

4. REPORTS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

- 4.1. Report on New Registrants – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.**
- 4.2. Report on Change of Registration Class – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.**
- 4.3. Name Approvals – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.**

4.4. Report on Facilities, Closed, New & Reaccredited

Council discussed the backlog in facilities requiring reaccreditation. With COVID, inspections were only done virtually and that in itself slowed down the process, not to mention that at that time, there were only two PFAC inspectors. It was noted that inspection rates are increasing, with efforts to streamline pre-inspection submission requirements and with the expansion of inspector capacity; changes to material presentations and also experience is helping PFAC to review files and reach accreditation decisions more efficiently, It was also noted that facilities are still quite busy, which slows down response rates and can complicate scheduling of inspections, and that, there are some instances where repeated follow up inspections are required to correct deficiencies. Council discussed considering additional cost recovery for clinics that require additional inspection time and resources to address deficiencies.

Direction: The Registrar will develop a plan for cost recovery and bring back to Council for input.

4.5. Task List – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.

5. ADJOURNMENT

5.1. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday July 28th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION: THAT the Open meeting be closed at 11:25 a.m.

MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED

Council adjourned for lunch to come back at 12:15 p.m.