COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
Monday, December 8, 2014

Introduction of New Council Members

Mr. Omar Farouk was welcomed as the College's new public Council member. Mr. Farouk was appointed in October 2014 and will serve a three year term.

Financial Report

Council reviewed the College's year to date financial report of operational revenue and expenditures and deemed it satisfactory. The 2015 budget will be finalized at the first Council meeting, held in January.

Registrar's Report

The Registrar noted that the Council seat for district 5 (Toronto) was underway, with an election date of December 19, 2014. Mr. Khan informed Council that representatives from the COO had recently conducted Quality Assurance workshops to assist members in understanding the requirements for their QA portfolios, which were well received. It was noted that the College is in the second year of its three year plan to go paperless for optician renewals.

Transparency Initiative

In October, Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, directed all RHPA Colleges to make transparency a key priority in their strategic plans and to take concrete measures to improve transparency in all College processes. Council reviewed the response letter that was sent to the Minister ahead of the December 1, 2014 deadline which outlined how the College will be strengthening existing processes and what new measures will be introduced to increase transparency. Council adopted the eight AGRE principles as a guide to future decision making about what information to be made public.

Amendments to By-law Article 15.6

Council approved (for circulation to stakeholders for feedback) amendments to 15.6 (v) of the College By-laws, requiring the public register to include, for every matter referred to the discipline committee:

a)   the complete notice of hearing;

b)   additional information about the status of the hearing

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Policy

The College will be developing policies to enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities. It was noted that the College has a Customer Service Accessibility Policy in place and will be developing policies pertaining to information and communications, employment and the design of public spaces. Council members will undergo training on the AODA and the policies in 2015.

Quality Assurance Policies

The QA Policy pertaining to Continuing Education Hours was amended to clarify the number of hours that members can claim for activities such as supervising and teaching and also to claim for volunteer hours completed in Canada. The policy was further amended to allow for Peer Assessors to claim CE hours for their participation.

The policy pertaining to Competency Review and Evaluation was also amended to identify the criteria for section 4 (c) of the QA regulation in order to identify exactly what would trigger a peer and practice assessment. The full policy will be posted on the College website. The approved policies will come into effect in 2015.

Registration Committee Composition

Ms. Susan Carlyle, public member, was appointed to the Registration Committee.

Appointed Members

Council determined that six appointed members would serve for 2015, which left two seats available for the next term. Mr. Bryan Todd and Mr. Rob Vezina were appointed and will each serve a two year term.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, January 26, 2014.