



College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

COUNCIL MEETING

Video Conference

Friday, March 19, 2021

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 and Dr. Michele Martin

Regrets: Dr. Jane Mancell and Mr. Gary Kobayashi

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 10:03 a.m.

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.

2. ROUTINE PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1. Approval of the Open Agenda

There was a request to move item 3.7 from the Open Agenda to the Closed Agenda.

MOTION: THAT item 3.7 be moved from the Open Agenda to the Closed Agenda and that the Open Agenda be approved as amended, with the power to add.

MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED

2.2. Discussion of Consent Agenda

There was a requested that item 2.3 be removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to the regular Closed Agenda for discussion.

MOTION: THAT the Open Consent Agenda be approved with items 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.6 and removing item 2.3 from the Open Consent Agenda and moved to the Closed Agenda.

MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED

2.3. Minutes of the February 5, 2021 Open Meeting

As there was a request to move this item to the regular Closed Agenda, the minutes were not approved at this meeting.

3. ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION/DECISION/DISCUSSION

3.1 BCVTA - Guests

Council President Josh Waddington welcomed our guests from the BCVTA, Ms. Amber Gregg and Ms. Mia Cirotto. Council and CVBC staff took the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves which was reciprocated by the BCVTA representatives.

The Council President offered an apology to the representatives for not following up with them over the past year or so and that the CVBC is looking forward to working closely with them going forward. The BCVTA is also looking forward to a mutually beneficial working relationship and would like to provide Council with frequent updates so that both sides will know what the other's expectations are in the anticipated onboarding of the RVTs.

Council was informed that the BCVTA has approximately 900 members who are dealing with the same struggles as the veterinarians during COVID-19, namely being overwork and burnout. Although both Ms. Gregg and Ms. Cirotto are new in their roles, they both have been RVTs for over 10 years and know that it is the wish of the veterinary technicians to be regulated in British Columbia. Although the Ministry of Agriculture had directed the CVBC bring the BCVTA under their umbrella, talks were not consistent and dropped off further with the COVID-19 pandemic. With the start of a new permanent Registrar, this would be an opportune time to start moving the process forward.

3.2 Personal Use Account

The Interim Registrar reflected on the fact that this topic was on the first agenda when she came onboard and now with only a few meetings left in her term, it has now been completed due in part to an amazing working group. The draft Standard and FAQ document were put out to Registrants on February 24 for review and input. The feedback was quite positive with a few minor points being raised regarding items that should be amended. With the process complete, the Interim Registrar took the suggestions back to the working group earlier this week and the final version is being presented to Council today for adoption and posting to the CVBC website. Upon reviewing the document, a Council member caught an error in Item 1 on Page 1 of the Standard, which will be corrected by the Interim Registrar.

MOTION: TO approve the “Standards for Practice of Veterinary Medicine in BC as it Relates to Registration Classification” as amended and the FAQ document developed to support it.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

Direction: To amend document and put up on the website and get out in the next newsletter or other communication sent to registrants.

3.3 Telemedicine Working Group - Update

Dr. Pritchard advised that the working group for telemedicine is comprised of herself and 1 registrant, but fortunately he is a very dedicated member who has expertise in this area of practice. The group is meeting weekly on this timely topic which could possibly help lower the stress on clinics as they look towards signing up teletriage companies to assist in alleviating the workload in their practices.

The draft to-date is quite long and draws from various other telemedicine documents produced by Colleges in other provinces, the CVMA as well as Telus, and will be refined to meet the needs of the CVBC. The working group wants to ensure that the document provides solid direction for registrants to use when starting any telemedicine appointment. As with the PUA Standard, this draft telemedicine document will be circulated to registrants to gather feedback. The Interim Registrar is hoping that a draft can be sent out in a week or so, and allow for a 3 week turnaround for input, with a completed document by the end of May. Along with the written document, it is anticipated that the steps will be set out in an easy to follow, quick-view flowchart to help veterinarians view at a glance.

3.4 Reappointment of Council Members

Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.

3.5 Provisional Supervised Active (PSA) Registration Category

The Interim Registrar is providing Council with a progress update from the Registration Committee on the bylaw change required to facilitate this class of registration. The Committee's edits have been sent back to the lawyer, who has reviewed and sent additional questions and comments back, which to-date have not been fully reviewed by Dr. Pritchard. The Committee is still working on refining the terminology with regard to the primary/additional supervisor and their roles in supervising a PSA.

In addition to the bylaw revision, the Interim Registrar is working on developing the format for the quarterly evaluations of the PSAs which is anticipated to be complete by June.

This class of registration is starting to raise inquiries from registrants, and this could be a topic to be put on the Annual General Meeting agenda to hold a vote as the finalization of all documentation and completion of the bylaw amendment may not be completed until summer.

3.7 Communication to Registrants

Council member, Dr. Martin has been thinking of different ways to reach out to registrants to supply them with important information. With everyone being so bogged down by their email inboxes, it may be an opportune time to look into developing video podcasts on timely subjects and posting these to the website for registrants to access when they have 5 to 10 minutes. Dr. Martin envisions that 1 podcast will be released every 2 months and would like this to be a pilot project for the next year, after which she will gauge interest from the registrants before moving it forward. Dr. Martin has already reached out to the Chair of the Investigation Committee who is willing to speak on the types of complaints most received by the IC.

This will strictly be on a volunteer basis and no Committee Chairs, Council members or registrants will be put on the spot to participate. The podcasts will be 7-10 minutes long and will be a very informal conversation, not requiring editing, lighting, etc.

Council will need to approve the podcasts before being released to the registrants and wants to ensure that there is a disclaimer attached that these podcasts are just for information and should not be taken as legal advice.

Direction: To survey Council members as to specific topics so they can be ranked and then seek input regarding additional topics for podcasts.

4. REPORTS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

- 4.1 Report on New Registrants – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.2 Change of Registration Class Report – 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 – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.5 Deputy Registrar’s Reports

Bylaw exam – the exam returned this month in its new online format with 34 candidates, comprised mostly of provisional registrants. This was the first exam session since the pandemic forced its suspension in April 2020. Only 1 person had a significant problem signing into take the exam, but Yardstick worked with her to remedy the situation so that she was able to successfully write it on the following Friday. Remaining provisional registrants have been given a deadline of the June 2021 exam session to pass the exam and satisfy the term of their provisional registration. The Deputy Registrar had the opportunity to speak with 1 exam taker and received positive feedback.

Council was informed that Yardstick has been working closely with the College to ensure that they had all of the information required to host our exam and that any questions that we had were answered. This support will continue to be provided as the College transitions to self-administering the exam sessions. The online format is intended to remain even in “post-COVID” times, entirely replacing the in-person written format.

CE Audit – 44 registrants were randomly selected for this year’s audit and Drs. Pritchard and Thomas conducted initial reviews of their logged CE. Three of the selected registrants’ audits were immediately completed, as sufficient hours were reported and certificates had been self-uploaded to their accounts, enabling immediate verification and approval. Approximately 60% of the remaining registrants had reported sufficient hours, but had not uploaded certificates – these individuals have been send letters notifying them of the audit and requiring them to submit their certificates for review. The other ~35% of selected registrants had not reported sufficient hours – these were sent letters notifying them of the audit, and requiring a list of all CE completed, certificates to support, if necessary, an explanation for why they did not complete the required hours, and a proposal for correcting any deficit. The audits are ongoing, as Drs. Pritchard and Thomas receive and review the responses.

Following the completion of this year's audit, the office plans to include an article in the next newsletter that will summarize the statistics of the audit and highlight the most common issues that were identified. The hope is that the article will remind registrants of the importance of completing and reporting their CE, offer an additional opportunity to stress the new (in 2020) CE Approval Criteria Policy and the benefit of uploading their certificates to the portal, and make the audit process tangible for registrants.

After Hours Care Questionnaire – the last newsletter foreshadowed the circulation of a questionnaire on this topic. The Deputy Registrar will work with office staff to get the survey ready in Survey Monkey, with the intention of getting it circulated to the veterinarians at BC's emergency and referral facilities over the next week or so.

Facility reaccreditation inspections – the Staff Veterinarian recently sent emails to an initial group of facilities that are overdue for reaccreditation inspections, asking that they send in the required documentation with the plan to follow up with them next week. The inspectors have already conducted a few reaccreditation inspections for facilities that were needing inspections for renovations and moves. However, the large number of facilities that are presently overdue for reaccreditation inspections will need to be balanced with the continuing high volume of new facility applications.

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

4.7 Covid-19 Vaccination Questions (ADDED ITEM)

The Interim Registrar, Council President and Council member spoke about communication from the CVBC and the SBCV regarding three areas of query from registrants:

- Why can't veterinarians administer the Covid-19 vaccine to people.
- Why can't veterinarians be moved to the top of the list to be vaccinated.
- What do facilities do if they have a positive result in a staff member.

Dr. Pritchard informed the Council that the SBCV has been engaging with the Ministry of Health on these subjects and is expected to send out messaging to its members today advising that veterinarians are health care essential workers but will not be prioritized and are not needed to administer the vaccine. The CVBC will ensure that this message is forwarded to all registrants so everyone will have the same information.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

5.1 Next Meeting Date

The Council President thanked the representatives from the BCVTA for attending and they left the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday April 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION: THAT the Open meeting be closed at 11:48 a.m.

MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED

Council broke for lunch at 11:48 until 12:30 p.m.