



College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

COUNCIL MEETING

Via Zoom

Friday, September 13th, 2024

Minutes of the Open Meeting

- Council Members:** Dr. Jane Pritchard (President), Dr. Michele Martin, Mr. Gian Sihota (Treasurer), Dr. Justin McLash, Dr. Gigi Lin and Dr. Kirsten Riphagen
- Regrets:** Mr. Harinder Mahil
- Staff:** Ms. Christine Arnold (Registrar & CEO), Dr. Stacey Thomas (Deputy Registrar) & Ms. Rosalee Magcalas (Executive Assistant)
- Guests:** Ms. Amanda Barker, BCVTA Liaison

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.

2.2 Approval of the Open Agenda

MOTION: THAT the Agenda be approved with the power to add. Ms. Arnold noted that Item 3.4 Committee - PFAC is being removed from the agenda.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

2.3 President's Remarks

Dr. Pritchard is very busy and knows that the College the College has been extremely busy with all the things going on. A big welcome and congratulations to Dr. Riphagen and her new baby. The minutes of the July Special Council meeting will be coming out in November as we have prioritized the June minutes. It is great to see how many new registrants have registered.

2.4. Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION: THAT the Open Consent Agenda be approved as presented with items 2.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

2.5. Minutes of the June 21st, 2024 Open Council Meeting

MOTION: THAT the Minutes of the June 21st, 2024 Open Council meeting be approved as distributed.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

Direction: To post the approved June 21st, 2024 open meeting minutes.

3. ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION/DECISION/DISCUSSION

3.1. Update from the BCVTA (Verbal)

Dr. Pritchard asked Ms. Barker if their board had taken the summer off and was advised that while they were able to take August off, they held meetings in June and July.

There was a board meeting this past Monday, which she was not able to attend due to it being a long day, but she had read through the minutes regarding the conversations that happened.

Ms. Leanne Hillis-Schmidt has resigned her position. The BCVTA instead of hosting a fall conference, will be providing online CE events, with conversation that they will be turning their minds to hosting one large conference rather than two smaller ones each year. The spring conference will be held in Kamloops again in 2025, with invitations extended to the Council and they are looking to move the 2026 conference to the Greater Vancouver area for diversity.

On November 23 there will be a strategic planning session and are hoping that Dr. Pritchard and Ms. Arnold can both attend. There have also been conversations with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and discussed the critical shortage of veterinarians and vet techs in the farming industry. The discussion of more seats at WCVVM was raised amongst other ideas to increase numbers. Expansion of corporations stepping into veterinarian medicine is pricing clients out of emergency medicine and as a result, increasing the number of euthanasia which increases burnout among veterinarians and vet techs, which is not sustainable.

Although there continues to be retention issues with RVTs, surveys have shown that the average career has increased from five years to fourteen years, which is a very positive number.

3.2. Feedback on Summer Council Break (verbal)

Ms. Arnold opened by saying that when the meetings were set back in March, she advocated taking the summer off as it is difficult for the office to get agendas out. Most other boards take the summer off and with staff and Council member vacations, it would be a welcome break. From the perspective of the office, it was helpful to have it off although there was an emergency meeting convened, with one single topic, Ms. Hlus.

Council was asked how they felt about the summer break and Dr. Pritchard said that it did not seem like there was time off due to dealing with outside counsel, but it did not hurt at all and Council knew that if they needed anything, they could always reach out to the office staff. Other members agreed that it was easier to reach out with a question and get an answer, rather than preparing an agenda and convening on a Friday during the summer.

Consensus of Council is that the summer break is useful and should be continued with in upcoming years.

Direction: We will keep this in mind when setting next year's meeting schedule.

3.3. Council Election Cycle

Dr. Pritchard is the only member whose term ends in March 2025 and although it is five months away, the process has to start now with a call out for registrants to sit on the Nomination Committee. Council will be asked to appoint the Nomination Committee members by an electronic vote by October 15th. Council asked and was advised that one nomination has been received so far and it may be a possibility that upper management will be asked to reach out to past Nomination Committee members and past Council members to fully populate this committee.

While Dr. Pritchard will run again, if she does not win, she advised that she would be more than happy to mentor the new person.

Direction: To continue on with the election process and send the electronic vote to Council to appoint the NC.

3.4. Committees - PFAC

Removed from the agenda.

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 – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.

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

5. ADJOURNMENT

5.1. Next Meeting Date

Friday, November 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom.

MOTION: THAT the Open meeting be closed at 10:40 a.m.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED