

Commission on Opticianry Accreditation

Semi-Annual Meeting, September 17, 2022

Las Vegas, NV

Summary of Major Actions and Discussion

(These are not the official minutes of the COA semi-annual meeting.)

Commissioners:

Janet Alspaugh, NAO
Lisa Bourque, OAA
Bryan Goh, NFOS
Kristina Green, OAA
Judy Lew, NAO
Joseph P. Ludovici, Public Member
Pablo Mercado, NAO
Thomas Neff, NAO, Treasurer
Yvonne Pelkey, OAA
Mary Seguiti, NFOS, Chair, Presiding

Not present:

Doug Nunes, OAA

NAO – National Academy of Opticianry

OAA – Opticians Association of America

NFOS – National Federation of Opticianry Schools

Staff: Debra White, COA Director of Accreditation

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:05. Commissioners introduced themselves.

II. Conflict of Interest and Agreement of Confidentiality

White is in receipt of all signed forms.

III. Total Quality Leadership (TQL)

Motion to accept ground rules for the meeting passed. Pelkey appointed as Timekeeper

IV. Chairperson's Report – Seguiti

Seguiti informed the Commissioners that CHEA granted a re-recognition for seven years, with an interim report due December 1, 2025. Wiregrass, GA recently granted initial accreditation. Three programs have submitted letter of intent: ASA in NYC, Ivy Tech in IN, and Southwestern CC in NC. We currently accredit (17) 2-year programs and 2 lab tech programs. We had 7 on-sites spring 2022, to be voted on at this fall meeting. We have one new Public Member, and one new appointee each from OAA and NAO.

Our budget has fallen short for the past few years. We are in need of consideration of a grant from ABO. SIPI is looking for a new Program Director.

V. Director of Accreditation Report – White

- The following programs are scheduled for a Spring 2022 on-site visit:
 - a. Roane State Community College, TN
 - b. Miami Dade College, FL
 - c. Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, NM
 - d. College of Southern Nevada, NV
 - e. Tri-Service Optician School, VA
 - f. Durham Technical Community College, NC
- The following programs are scheduled for a Fall 2022 on-site visit:
 - a. Raritan Valley Community College, NJ
 - b. Ivy Tech Community College, IN
- The following programs are scheduled for a Spring 2023 on-site visit:
 - a. Camden County College
 - b. Middlesex Community College
 - c. Hillsborough Community College
- White informed the Commissioners that we still have not received an application for initial accreditation from Daytona State College.
- The Spring 2022 minutes were approved.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Neff presented the Financial Report. We are seeking a grant from ABO.

VII. Strategic Planning

The Strategic Plan was updated and a new committee was formed for review of Essentials, and By-Laws.

VIII. Accreditation and Reaffirmation of Accreditation

1. Roane State Community College, TN

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Roane State Community College. No one self-identified. A motion was made, discussed and passed to award the program full accreditation for a six-year period, based on the program substantially meeting the requirements of the Essentials, subject to regular progress on one area of non-compliance.

2. Miami Dade College, FL

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Miami Dade College. No one self-identified. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to grant the program a six-year accreditation, based on the program meeting the requirements of the Essentials.

3. Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, NM

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. No one self-identified. A motion was made, discussed and passed to award the 2-year Technology Program and the 1-year Laboratory Technician

Program full accreditation for a six-year period, based on the program meeting the requirements of the Essentials, subject to regular progress on two areas of potential compliance.

Meeting break taken at 9:02. Return to meeting at 9:16.

4. College of Southern Nevada, NV

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with College of Southern Nevada. No one self-identified. A motion was made, discussed and passed to award the program full accreditation for a six-year period, based on the program substantially meeting the requirements of the Essentials, subject to regular

5. TOPS, VA

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with TOPS. No one self-identified. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to grant the program a six-year accreditation, based on the program substantially meeting the requirements of the Essentials.

6. Durham Technical Community College, NC

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Durham Technical Community College. Alspaugh left the room. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to grant the program a six-year accreditation, based on the program substantially meeting the requirements of the Essentials. Alspaugh returned to the room.

IX. Progress Reports and carry-overs from spring meeting

1. Ben Franklin Institute of Technology, Boston, MA

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Ben Franklin Institute of Technology. No one self-identified. The statistics and faculty state licensure discrepancy from the Spring meeting had been clarified. This issue has been satisfied.

2. Broward College, Coconut Creek, FL

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Broward College. No one self-identified. The statistics listed on their website have been rectified. The issue has been clarified.

3. Camden County College, Blackwood, NJ

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Camden County College. No one self-identified. The issue with the Advisory Board has been rectified. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to accept their Progress Report.

Break taken at 10:15. Return to meeting at 10:26

X. Annual Reports

A. Annual Reports- Dispensing

1. Durham Technical Community College, Durham, NC – (statistics only)

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Durham Technical Community College. Alspaugh left the room. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to accept their statistics.
Alspaugh returned to the room.

2. Essex County College, Newark, NJ

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Essex County College. No one self-identified. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to not accept the annual report until receipt of additional information.

3. Miami-Dade College, Miami, FL, – (statistics only)

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Miami-Dade College. No one self-identified. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to accept their statistics.

4. Middlesex Community College, Middletown, CT – (Statistics only) -

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Middlesex Community College, Goh left the room. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to accept their statistics.

Goh returned to the room.

5. Reynolds Community College, Richmond, VA – (statistics only)

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Reynolds Community College, Pelkey and Green left the room. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to accept their statistics.

Pelkey and Green returned to the room.

6. Roane State Community College, Harriman, TN, (Statistics only)

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Roane State Community College. No one self-identified. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to accept the annual report, while placing the program into “reporting phase”, due to the retention rate that falls below our minimum performance expectation.

7. Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque, NM

None due

8. Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, Valdosta, GA, (Statistics only)

Seguiti asked if anyone was associated with Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. No one self-identified. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to accept the statistics with a caveat.

A. Annual Reports – Laboratory

1. Tri-Service Optician School (TOPS), Yorktown, VA – None due

2. Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque, NM, -
None due

XI. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Evaluator Workshop and Sample Self Study Update

Two Commissioners presented the revised Power Point for the Evaluator Workshop. The accompanying dialog will be worked on this winter. There was no work done on the Sample Self Study.

2. State license benchmark for programs not reporting ABO/NCLE

The committee reminded Commissioners that graduates of programs in New Jersey can choose to take either the NCSORB exam or ABO, and that program directors are unable to gather pass rates from NCSORB. COA stopped requiring state licensing exams as a minimum performance standard, due to the diverse exams from state-to-state. Therefore, COA is unable to compare examination minimum performance standards on New Jersey programs.

A motion to extend discussion at 11:16 was seconded and passed.

White will ask for advice from our consultant Weinberger, and past Director Norris.

Break taken at 11:26. Return to meeting at 11:36.

XII. New Business

A. Annual fee for programs

A motion was made, seconded and passed to continue with the 1% increase in annual fees.

B. Date for Next Meeting

Discussion took place as to whether the spring 2023 meeting be virtual or face-to-face. If an ABO grant was received, a face-to-face meeting could take place.

C. Meetings for Director to attend (NFOS, OAA Leadership)

To be addressed as needed.

D. Election of New Officers

Elected officers for the coming year are:

Chair: Neff

Vice-Chair: Lew

Treasurer: Goh

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:16.