

MEETING MINUTES PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMITTEE

January 25, 2022

Teleconference

A. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Chair Charles Ward called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and called the roll. Three members of the Committee constitute a quorum; there being four members present at the time of roll, a quorum was established.

Board Members Present

Mitra Kanaani

Committee Members Present

Charles “Sonny” Ward, Chair
Malcolm (Brett) Gladstone, Vice Chair (joined meeting at 10:27am)
Tian Feng
Eric Lum
Barry Williams

Members of the Public Present

Rona Rothenberg, President, The American Institute of Architects, California (AIA CA)
Mark Christian, Director of Government Relations, AIA CA

Staff Present

Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer (EO)
Marccus Reinhardt, Examination and Licensing Manager
Darren Dumas, Senior Licensing Analyst
Jesse Bruinsma, Continuing Education Analyst (Co-Moderator)

B. CHAIR’S PROCEDURAL REMARKS AND COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Mr. Ward announced the meeting was being webcast pursuant to Governor Gavin Newsom’s January 5, 2022 Executive Order N-1-22. He advised members of the teleconference voting requirements.

Mr. Ward asked to open public comments and no comments were received from the public on this item.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Ward asked to open public comments and no comments were received from the public on this item.

D. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MARCH 26, 2021, MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Ward asked for public comments and no comments were received from the public on this item.

Mr. Ward asked for a motion to approve the March 26, 2021 minutes. Mr. Feng questioned whether there were enough current committee members present at the prior meeting to vote on a motion regarding the minutes. Ms. Zuniga advised that current members of the Committee could vote on the minutes if they have reviewed them and are comfortable with approving the minutes. Otherwise, she said they could abstain.

- Mr. Feng made the motion to approve the March 26, 2021 meeting minutes.

Mr. Ward seconded the motion.

Members Ward, Feng, Lum, and Williams voted in favor of the motion. Member Gladstone was absent for the vote.

The motion passed 4-0.

E. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON 2022-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Mr. Ward presented the four objectives of the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan as listed in the agenda:

1. Amend existing regulations to revise and expand the types of degrees accepted for licensure to remove barriers to licensure.
2. Collaborate with legal to implement Assembly Bill (AB) 1010 in developing regulations and aligning committee findings to provide more consistency and make continuing education (CE) requirements more relevant to current licensing requirements.
3. Communicate with staff to include climate resiliency as a priority subject matter for the California Supplemental Exam (CSE) to protect consumers and licensees.
4. Communicate to the public what the professional qualifications committee has suggested to the Board to promote the work the committee has done.

Mr. Ward commenced the discussion addressing the objective related to work the committee has already done. He stated the objective involves a communication with the Board; he opined the objective was straight-forward. Mr. Ward then addressed the

objective related to removing barriers to licensure and said this is something the Board has been working on for some time as part of an ongoing conversation. Next, Mr. Ward focused on the objective related to including climate resiliency as a priority subject content on the California Supplemental Examination and said the Board has already communicated its intention to have this content added to the exam.

Mr. Ward then began the discussion on the objective related to the development of regulations for implementation of AB 1010. He read the bill to members and asked Ms. Zuniga whether he understood the timing of developing regulations in relation to the next renewal cycle that occurs in 2023. Ms. Zuniga explained that the AIA CA, who sponsored the bill, did not want to delay implementation of the new CE requirement because of the lengthy regulatory development process. She added that the AIA CA wanted to start the requirement with the next renewal cycle and have the Board afterwards further clarify the requirement in regulation. Mr. Ward asked whether the Board would have the qualifications established for courses and course providers by January 1, 2023. Ms. Zuniga responded that the regulation would not be in place by that date. She said the goal is to have the regulations in-place by July 1, 2024; however, Ms. Zuniga added that presently in best case scenarios regulatory packages are taking 18 to 24 months to complete the process.

Mr. Ward continued reading the bill to members and explained the Committee is charged with defining the parameters of Zero Net Carbon Design (ZNCD). Mr. Feng expressed his belief that it is important Board members and staff clearly understand the definition and scope of ZNCD in their application of the requirement. He said there is a need for detailed discussion and a consensus of the Committee, followed by a report to the Board.

Mr. Feng said the Committee worked on a more comprehensive CE requirement during the past three years and the findings were presented to the Board. He said the new members can review the findings of the Committee and asked the presentation from the Committee's March 26, 2021 meeting be played for their convenience. He added that the presentation explains how the Committee is considering expansion and enhancement of the current CE requirement.

Ms. Zuniga summarized that in the prior Strategic Plan the Committee had an objective to look at developing a more comprehensive CE framework for licensees. She said what the Committee adopted is in the presentation. However, Ms. Zuniga also said, the current Strategic Plan only has the objective of implementing AB 1010 with the ZNCD requirement. She added that where these two objectives overlap is because ZNCD is not defined in statute and Board has the ability to define it, taking into consideration the prior work the PQC did the last few years, to see if any of that can become part of the requirement.

Mr. Feng went through the list of CE Categories from the March 2021 presentation and highlighted the four Category Subject Matter Topics related to Climate Change. He asked the committee members how flexible or expansive they would like the definition of ZNCD to be, provided it fits within a semblance of their respective or even collective

vision. Ms. Zuniga said staff already began work on draft regulations to start the process and also said maybe it would be helpful to share the initial definition of ZNCD, as stated in the proposal, and get the Committee members' perspectives on whether it is an appropriate definition. She read the proposed definition for ZNCD as "architectural designs of new construction and existing facilities that produces onsite, or procures, enough carbon-free renewable energy to meet building operations energy consumption annually."

Mr. Ward commented that the draft definition for ZNCD seems to align with similar ones in the profession. He explained there are two facets of ZNCD: one that addresses construction; the other building life cycle. He expounded how each of the four Category Subject Matter Topics of "Category 2" aligned with the draft definition of ZNCD. Mr. Ward expressed his belief that the class qualifications this bill requires are quite broad and in-line with the conversations the Board has been having over the past several years. Mr. Lum asked why ZNCD was singled out for the five hours of CE instead of the other topics. Mr. Ward explained the genesis of the new ZNCD requirement and said that now after it has become law the Board is charged with ultimately defining ZNCD and implementing it. Mr. Lum commented how the topics have integration with each other and instead of ZNCD specifically, it could be a wider subject on the five hours of CE on sustainability in general, which could include ZNCD. Mr. Ward explained the four Category Subject Matter Topics covered, along with others, ultimately are what creates ZNCD and he supports a broader definition as well. He said that's what the larger Board wants to hear from the Committee. Mr. Feng explained to new members that the ZNCD CE was sponsored by AIA CA and the scope of the proposed expansion and enhancement of the CE requirement was driven by the Committee.

Mr. Christian (AIA CA) provided comment and stated that the explanation for how AB 1010 transpired is accurate. He said AIA had discussions with various committees and members of the Board regarding the expansion or alteration of the then-current content. He said the AIA CA Board of Directors wanted to focus on ZNCD, not because it was opposed to any of the Subject Matter Topics presented here, but because they felt that decarbonization of the built environment was a priority issue rising above the others. He said that was the opinion of his Board of Directors, so they focused on zero-net carbon. He further said they didn't want to confuse or jeopardize it by expanding it beyond the five hours of ZNCD, but they are open to discussing different content in the future that can be included in any mandatory CE requirement.

Ms. Kanaani said she agreed with the explanation and understands the need for ZNCD, but asked why AIA CA didn't consider giving it a broader name, such as Climate Action, and said she thinks it is inappropriate to disregard or undermine the importance of the other three category topics in order to bring them all under Climate Action. She further asked if this is going to affect the content of the Supplemental Exam for California (CSE) for next year. Mr. Ward answered, referring to the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan objectives, and said they Board is not allowed to request or require certain items be included on the Supplemental Exam, but they could communicate the importance in the profession of specific content and it should in the future be reflected in the exam. Ms. Zuniga confirmed this understanding for members. Mr. Ward further explained the four

Subject Matter Topics of Category 2 regarding climate change allow for these types of discussions to exist and he advocated using these topics as the starting point for the guardrails to be used in the determination of classes that fulfill the requirements of AB 1010.

Mr. Feng noted for members that Ms. Rothenberg, AIA CA President, was present and addressed both Ms. Rothenberg and Mr. Christian asking how flexible AIA CA would be in defining the scope of ZNCD. Mr. Christian affirmed for members that AIA CA is always open to having conversations on the requirements that impact the architecture profession or give it the opportunity to better protect the public health, safety, and welfare, such as through continuing education.

Ms. Zuniga noted there has been good commentary on the subject and suggested, as an action step for the next committee meeting, staff can take this into account and provide more specific questions for the Committee to consider at the next meeting; allowing for a more in-depth discussion about the requirements and how they will look. Mr. Ward agreed with her suggestion.

Mr. Ward asked whether there were any closing comments regarding ZNCD CE before adjournment. Mr. Lum asked whether because there are overlapping CE requirements, there is a way to combine them. Mr. Feng said this would be discussed at the next meeting.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.