

**Minutes**  
**Arkansas Psychology Board**  
**101 East Capitol, Suite 415**  
**Board Room**  
**February 18, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Stephen Shry, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members present: Dr. Betty Davis, Dr. Sabra Hassel, Dr. Betty Hoffman, Mr. Larry Lawrence, Mr. Dwight Sowell, and Dr. Michael Wyrick.

Staff Members present: Mr. James Ammel, Mr. Arnie Jochums, Ms. Janet Welsh, and Ms. Rebecca Wright.

Guests present: Dr. Robert Doyle, Ms. Elizabeth Glenn, Dr. Steven Holt, Ms. Angela Stormo, and Ms. Angela Vaughn.

**Meeting Agenda**

Dr. Shry presented the agenda. Ms. Janet Welsh requested to add a request under New Business. Dr. Michael Wyrick made a motion to accept the amended agenda. Mr. Larry Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes**

Dr. Shry presented the January 21, 2005 minutes. Dr. Betty Davis made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Wyrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Shry presented the January 26, 2005 teleconference minutes. Dr. Shry made a comment that teleconference calls should be kept to a minimum and, when utilized, would like to keep a time limit. Dr. Wyrick made a motion to approve the minutes and to support Dr. Shry's comment. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Shry presented the February 1, 2005 teleconference minutes. Mr. Dwight Sowell stated that he would like his motion in the minutes to reflect that he would like the Chair to also act as legislative liaison during the 85<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Dr. Shry stated that the Chair of the Board, and Board members, always have approval before sending any notices or letters of support or opposition, and drafts are proofed by the staff. Mr. Lawrence made a motion to accept the minutes with the amendment. Dr. Wyrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. James Ammel stated that there was no report.

### **Appeal Internship Approval**

Dr. Thomas Merlo, in absentia, provided documentation of a primary supervisor that, in previous credential review, was determined to not meet the Arkansas Rules and Regulations as a Psychologist. Dr. Wyrick questioned that if the supervisor and the applicant are within the law and Rules and Regulations of their currently licensed states, if they are technically illegal when crossing state lines. Dr. Merlo did provide documentation of a secondary supervisor that does meet the qualifications of an Arkansas Psychologist. Dr. Wyrick made a motion to accept the primary supervisor's qualifications with the additional documentation of the secondary supervisor's qualifications. Dr. Bettye Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Merlo's file passes credential review.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Arkansas Association of Masters in Psychology (AAMP) Public Statement on HB1234**

Ms. Elizabeth Glenn, President of the AAMP, stated that there were concerns about statements made about Psychological Examiners and their support or non-support of HB1234. She stated that the AAMP has always nominated Psychological Examiners for positions on the Arkansas Psychology Board, deemed appropriate, that would provide fair and just participation. Ms. Glenn stated that the AAMP appreciates the Board's position on HB1234 and is in support of the Board's decision. The AAMP does not feel that the Board, on any level, is against Psychological Examiners.

Dr. Shry stated that he would like the Board to listen to the tape of the February 1, 2005 teleconference call, after the adjournment was made. Several people stayed on the line for discussion and Dr. Shry stated that because a Board member was involved in that discussion, the other Board members should know what occurred. After discussion with Mr. Arnie Jochums, substitute Attorney General Representative, it was stated that the Board could listen to the tape but the Board could make no sanctions against Board members involved. After listening to the tape, discussion followed.

Mr. Sowell asked if all meetings are taped. Ms. Welsh stated that the meetings are taped and that minutes are also taken. The tape is used in conjunction with the minutes so that the final minutes will reflect items accurately.

Dr. Wyrick asked Mr. Jochums what the duties are of a governor's liaison. Mr. Jochums explained that he follows the Governor's requests.

Mr. Sowell stated that the symposium that was held on February 10, 2005 was advertised as a meeting for all concerned to state their opinions but after observing, felt that those who called the symposium were opposing the oppositions stated.

Dr. Sabra Hassel stated that she is respecting the time and effort of the Interim Studies and the document that has been produced. She stated that anything that the Board does is open to the

public and that she was unaware of any documents that were not privy to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Dr. Shry responded that any questions that Dr. Hassel had as a Board member should be brought up in Board meetings.

Dr. Wyrick stated that the Board is comprised of hard-working, serious members. He stated that he respects the fact that the Board and its actions are open to the public and that all Board members must respect the process. He questioned Dr. Hassel about her comment on the tape stating that she was “up against” the Board. Dr. Hassel explained that she saw the Board not respecting the Interim Study and the progress it has made in developing a document. Dr. Wyrick stated that the Board has taken all of the process very seriously and that he did not approve of another Board member being discourteous to other Board members. He stated that the Board did consider HB1234 and after discussion, voted to oppose the bill.

Ms. Glenn stated that those supporting the bill are asking those that oppose the bill to respect the compromise. However, three entities, the AAMP, the Arkansas Psychology Consortium, and the Counseling Board, who oppose the bill, do not see the bill as a compromise. She stated that those who have earned Master’s degrees do deserve respect as professionals.

Dr. Wyrick stated that if HB1234 passes, the Master’s level people will not be able to use the term “psychology” in their titles, yet those with a high school degree or undergraduate degree only would be able to use the term “psychology” in their titles if the technician bill passes. Dr. Sowell added that if the Board were to see the draft technician bill, currently being written, it states that technicians would not need an undergraduate degree.

Mr. Lawrence reiterated Dr. Wyrick’s comments that the Board does take the issue of Psychological Examiners having independent practice and the issue of using unlicensed technicians very seriously and does follow closely any proceedings concerning these issues.

Dr. Davis stated that she was shocked that anyone would take the liberty to continue using a line of a teleconference call after the Board had adjourned. She stated that in her years as a Board member, she has never heard any derogatory statements made against any person or groups. Dr. Davis stated that when she and Dr. Russell Dixon participated in the Interim Study I group, she attended in a different role, as the Consumer Representative of the Board. She stated that she also took the Study very seriously and attended every meeting that she was invited to. Dr. Davis stated that as a trained mediator herself, her views of the Study look to be nonobjective concerning the roles of people and the arrangements of meetings.

Dr. Hoffman questioned Dr. Hassel about her comment on the tape that there was “infighting” and which group seemed to come across as hostile. Dr. Hassel stated that both groups involved have been hostile. She stated that the law is a political process. Dr. Hassel also stated that she did not see anything wrong with continuing to talk when, at Board meetings, she has seen other Board members privately meet in hallways or offices.

Dr. Davis asked if the January 26, 2005 conference call was one hour. Ms. Welsh stated that it was one hour. Dr. Hassel commented that she missed that call and only had the draft minutes and feedback of participants and guests of the items discussed.

Dr. Shry commented that the Board members have had several opportunities to include information in the Board newsletter. He believes that some of the statements made about the Board and other psychologists could be viewed as slanderous. Dr. Shry stated that he holds the comments made after the adjournment of the February 1, 2005 teleconference in disgust and contempt.

Dr. Hassel stated that she does not correct others' personal opinions if she does not have the background information of the person or subject.

Dr. Shry stated to Ms. Welsh that all paperwork, including drafts, is privy to the FOIA but would like to maintain a policy that all FOIA requests are directed to the staff.

Dr. Hassel included that it is her view that it is the Board's job to carry out the law, and that all the various groups in psychology will have to work to make any changes to the existing laws. She stated that all the opinions that are being expressed in Board Meetings about pending legislation are essentially privately held opinions. Dr. Hassel stated that she is against the Board as a Board having an official opinion about any pending legislation put forth by any party other than the Board itself.

Dr. Hassel included clarification that she personally did not say anything negative about any Board member and does not hold any negative feelings about any Board members. She stated that she has respect for the different opinions.

Dr. Hassel included that she did apologize for having a private conversation on the conference call line, but at the time did not see anything different about that than conversations that have occurred by all of the members during breaks or after a Board meeting in the offices. Also, because no one else in the recorded conversation is a Board member, she stated that it seems to be a private conversation. As such, opinions expressed by anyone else in the conversation were individual private opinions, not generally considered to constitute slander.

### **Board Discussion of HB1234**

Dr. Wyrick commented that if the bill passes, it would not be an easy process considering the amount of opposition growing.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Application for Supervisor Status**

R. Faupel: Mr. Sowell stated that Dr. Faupel is an outstanding worker. Dr. Wyrick made a motion to approve Dr. Faupel for Supervisor Status. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

R. Bowman: Dr. Wyrick made a motion to approve Dr. Bowman for Supervisor Status. Dr. Hassel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Hoffman: Dr. Hoffman stated that she would like to supervise both Psychologists and Psychological Examiners. Dr. Wyrick made a motion to approve Dr. Hoffman for Supervisor Status. Dr. Hassel seconded the motion. Dr. Hoffman recused herself. The motion passed.

### **Postdoctoral Approval**

D. Xie: Dr. Xie is not an applicant at this time. Discussion followed. Dr. Wyrick made a motion that Dr. Xie apply for licensure and his request to be a part of the credential review. Dr. Hoffman seconded the motion. Dr. Wyrick called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Applicant Status Update**

Ms. Rebecca Wright presented the number of applicants since the start of CY05. She stated that there are six Psychological Examiner applicants, eight Psychologist applicants, and two Reciprocity applicants totaling sixteen applicants.

### **Arkansas Psychology Board's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Ms. Welsh stated that she would like to hold a reception after the March 18, 2005 Board meeting in celebration of the Board's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She stated that present and past Board members would be in attendance. The Board agreed with having the reception.

### **License Renewal Fees**

Mr. Sowell stated that he would like the issue of the license renewal fees to be added to the March agenda.

Dr. Wyrick extended his thanks to Mr. Jochums for attending as the substitute Attorney General Representative.

### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Lawrence made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.