

Council on Naturopathic Medical Education

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, March 15, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

3:00 p.m. ET – 4:00 p.m. ET

MEETING MINUTES

Call to order and roll call

CNME board president Dr. Olehausen called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. ET. The following Board members were present:

- Brian Andrew, JD, MA (Public Member), Chesterfield, Missouri;
- Arvin Jenab, ND (Profession Member), Costa Mesa, California;
- Joni Olehausen, ND (Profession Member), Dayton, Ohio (board vice president);
- Eileen Stretch, ND (Profession Member), Tucson, Arizona (board secretary);
- Dee Saunders, ND (Institutional Member Rep., NUNM), Portland, OR;
- Cynthia Hope, ND Bastyr U. (Institutional Member Rep., Bastyr U.), San Diego, California;
- Susan Tebb, PhD, MSW, C-IAYT, RYT-500 (Public Member), St. Louis, Missouri;
- Melissa Woodin, CPA, MBA (Public Member), Kent, Connecticut (board treasurer)

Board member recused:

- Amanda Alexander, ND, MEd (Profession Member), Mesa, Arizona;

Staff present:

- Daniel Seitz, JD, EdD (executive director), Great Barrington, Massachusetts

Dr. Olehausen stated that the reason for the special board meeting was for the board to review the complaint submitted by a group of students at SCNM regarding SCNM's admissions and attendance policies related to the Covid situation. She noted that Mr. Andrew, JD, MA, Dr. Seitz and she had met previously as a review committee to preliminarily review the complaint and SCNM's response, and decided that the best course of action would be for the full board to review the complaint and response, and then to make a decision.

The board asked questions regarding the CNME complaint policy and discussed the complaint. All agreed that while the CNME board is sympathetic to the students' complaint, there is no basis for the CNME to require SCNM to change the policies that the students complained of. Furthermore, while the students presented a lot of information showing that there had been

numerous interactions between the aggrieved SCNM students and the administration, the students had lodged a formal grievance against the school and progressed through the full grievance process, as is required under CNME's complaint policy.

Dr. Olehausen moved, and Dr. Stretch seconded, the following motion:

To send a CNME response letter to the SCNM student complaint stating that:

- **The CNME does not have a basis to require SCNM to change the admissions and attendance requirements in question.**
- **Regarding complaints about actions towards individual students: the students in question need to first go through the formal complaint process.**
- **Regarding the question of poor NPLEX results: the CNME will review these results in the context of the annual report review process.**

The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Seitz will draft a letter to the SCNM students, and will ask Dr. Olehausen and Mr. Andrew, JD, MA, to review the letter before he sends it out.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. ET