

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of the 143rd Meeting of the Social Workers Registration Board

Date: 19 June 2017 (Monday)
Time: 7:06pm
Venue: Conference Room, 26/F, Eastern Commercial Centre, 83 Nam On Street, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong
Present: Mr. CHUNG Wai-lung, Rivalino
Ms. CHU Wai-sum, Betty
Mr. HUI Chung-shing, Herman
Mr. KWAN Wing-shing, Vincent
Mr. LAM Kai-tai
Mr. LO Wa-kei, Roy
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen
Ms. LUK Ka-mei
Mr. LUN Chi-wai
Mr. MA Kam-wah, Timothy
Mr. SHIU Ka-chun
Mr. TAN Tick-yee
Mr. TSANG Kin-chiu
Mr. WONG Ka-ming
Ms. WU Lai-ling

Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po and Ms. FAN Lai-yee, Veronica

Mr. LUN, Chairperson of the Board, presided the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes of the 142nd Meeting

1. The minutes of the 142nd meeting of the Board were confirmed as the true records of the said meeting and signed by the Chairperson.

Matters arising from the 142nd Meeting

Judicial review on Complaint Case no. XXX

2. The Secretary followed up with the availability of at least a Board Member duly authorized to attend the hearing of the case at court, so as to give instructions to the counsel as when required. The Chairperson confirmed that he could only make it on 25 July and would be inviting another Board Member to take up the duty on 26 July. At his proposal, the meeting agreed to resolve this via email circulation.

Application for registration from anonymized

3. (Business information deleted)

Meeting with the Labour & Welfare Bureau

4. The meeting took note of the discussion at the meeting as recorded in the notes of meeting as well as those reflected in the follow up letter to the Bureau. The Secretary reported that the Bureau had shown concern in the potential implications of the judicial review case.

(anonymized) also supplemented that any initiative of moving forward the proposal of legislative amendments would rest upon the attitude of the incoming Secretary for Labour & Welfare towards this piece of legislation.

(Business information deleted)

5. (Business information deleted)

6. (Business information deleted)

Report from the Disciplinary Committee

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(Business information deleted)

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(The meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm and resumed at 9:46pm.)

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Reports from the Committees

Committee on Administration

Finance

60. The Secretary reported that an investment policy was being drafted, and to finalize it, the meeting was asked to authorize the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar to conduct with (Business information deleted) the risk profile so that the banker could offer its investment advice to the Board. The meeting endorsed the authorization.

Administrative

61. The meeting noted that the Labour and Welfare Bureau had replied with no objection to the proposed partial refund of renewal fee. The Board Office was working on the logistics and would come up with a proposal after the summer.
62. The Secretary reported that the suggestion of setting up an archive of legal advice was considered by the Committee at its meeting but having considered its cost-effectiveness, the access to the advices which are privileged in principle and the frequency of access, the Committee recommended not to pursue this suggestion. The meeting noted.
63. The Secretary further reported that the Committee had considered introducing online payment via credit cards and advised that the cost in dollars would never justify the implementation but it would bring about the intangible benefit of a better image of the Board for being up-to-date. The meeting endorsed the initiative.

Human Resources

64. The meeting noted that the Committee had endorsed in principle the revisions to the Staff Handbook and put forth the proposal of increasing the medical benefits for staff members, in view that the level had been far behind the market and the staff team had been aging with an expectation of escalating medical expenses. It was also proposed to replace the current self-financing model with medical insurance. The meeting endorsed the proposals and the Committee would work on the viable options of the insurance cover.

Promotion

65. The meeting noted that writer had agreed to further amend the article on funding which he had contributed to the Newsletter.
66. The meeting considered and endorsed the proposal of the Committee to continue the participation in the Social Work Day in year 2018.

Committee on Professional Conduct

Review of Code of Practice

67. (anonymized) briefed the meeting of the progress of the review exercise. The Secretary supplemented that a draft of the preamble was being prepared and members of the task force had teamed up to work on details of different sections, with the one on agency to be submitted to the Board for deliberation as if the task force was moving along right direction as anticipated by the Board.
68. In reply to (anonymized), the Secretary reported he had been working on a detailed flowchart for the disciplinary function, and once completed and endorsed by the Committee then the Board, it would be part of the operational manual as well.

Qualification Assessment and Registration

Review of the Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social

Work for Registration of RSWs

69. (anonymized) reported that the first draft of the revised document was prepared, with comments collected from the public consultation incorporated. It would be vetted section after section in coming meetings of the Committee.

Appointment of Assessment Team (business information deleted)

70. The meeting endorsed the appointment of the Assessment Team for (business information deleted).

Progress Reports from (business information deleted)

71. The meeting noted and received the three progress reports.

Appointment of additional Professional Consultant (Board Paper no. 53/2017)

72. (anonymized) told the meeting that selection interviews were conducted as outlined in the Board Paper no. 53/2017 and (business information deleted) were shortlisted for the appointment. The meeting received the report and approved the appointment as have put forth.

Appointment of Disciplinary Committees

73. The Secretary outlined the requirements of the three 5-member Disciplinary Committees to be appointed. The meeting also took note of the information of the available members of the Disciplinary Committee Panel as listed in the spreadsheets, in particular their background and case load.

74. The three Disciplinary Committees for each of the cases were appointed as follows:-

(business information deleted)

Any other business

Re-application for Registration (business information deleted)

75. (Business information deleted).

Date of next meeting

76. The meeting decided to fix the meeting dates for the rest of the year and resolved to schedule such as below:-

10 August 2017 (Thursday) at 9:30am
9 October 2017 (Monday) at 7:00pm
18 December 2017 (Monday) at 7:00pm

77. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1:54pm.