Oklahoma Academy of Physician Assistants
January 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024, 6:30 pm via Zoom

Board Members Present: Saura Douglas, Jeff Burke, Keith Plummer, Don Guthrie, Christy Niehues, Elizabeth DiSalvatore, Phil Green, Nicole Mason, Sara Parr, Audra Ball, Melissa Loftis, Jennifer Putnam, Helga Price, Kaelyn Davis
Board Members Not Present: Natasha Simonson
Others Present: Emma Williams, Greyson Mitchell, Lauren Griffen, Mary Richard, Aletheia Lawry, Audrey Poole, Susan Thomas, Tyler Powell, Matt Lathum, Jan Loftis, Robert Peevy.

I. Call to Order – Saura Douglas, President
- Call to Order – 6:31 pm

II. Approval of Agenda – Saura Douglas, President
- **Motion to approve agenda made by Don Guthrie; Phil Green seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

III. Approval of Consent Agenda – Saura Douglas, President
1. November 6, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes General Membership Meeting Minutes
2. Student Reports
- **Motion to approve consent agenda made by Don Guthrie; Phile Green seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

IV. Reports
1. Legislative Committee – Jeff Burke, Jan Loftis
- Jeff Burke - At the last board meeting the board voted to seek attorneys to help draft language for an independent practice bill. We then had a legislative meeting to review what that bill would entail. Our attorneys, Mary Richard and Aletheia Lawry, are here to go over that language.

- Jan Loftis – Our lobby team has been tracking the APRN bill. This bill should be heard on the house floor.

- Mary Richard and Aletheia Lawry – Presented the proposed language in the independent practice bill. The board discussed the language.

- **Motion made by Keith Plummer to proceed with the proposed language and allow the lobby team to move forward. Don Guthrie seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

- Compact Legislation is moving along. We have language and authors.

- Rules Adoption Process – Jan Loftis will be working with Susan Thomas to request that our members send in written comments. The rules will be submitted for public viewing and written comment. The public comments and vote on the rules will take place on Feb 22nd, 2024. The Medical Board plans to submit for AG opinion on the Schedule II topic.

2. Executive Director Report – Susan Thomas
   - Discussed the financials for the 2023 OAPA conference.
   - Notified the board that we are still working with Back40 to get the convenience fee up and running on the website.
   - Name Change – The Certificate was updated and signed. We are working on getting the name change in all other areas.
   - AAPA Conference registration is now up.

3. Social Committee – Christy Niehues
   - Nothing to report. The committee will be meeting soon.

4. PR Committee – Natasha Simonson
   - Natasha was unable to attend the meeting.

5. Governance Committee – Keith Plummer
   - The Governance Committee met and reviwed the new policy changes and approved those changes.
     - **The Governance Committee Motions to vote and approve the new policy changes. All in favor. Motion passes.**
   - Members of the board, staff, and lobby team met with two of the four applicants for the liaison position.
     - Board discussed two applicants and decided to bring Marian Clopton back for a second interview.

6. Finance Committee – Don Guthrie
   - Reviewed the budget that was emailed out.

V. New Business

- Saura Douglas discussed officially hiring Health Law Oklahoma (attorneys Mary Richard and Alethia Lawry). The agreement with Health law Oklahoma is a 5k retainer upon signature of the agreement. Then $350 an hour util the 20k is reached, then the hours rate goes down to $300 an hour. Don Guthrie confirms that the budget is set for 20k.
    - **Motion to hire Health Law Oklahoma made by Keith Plummer; Don Guthrie seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

VI. Old Business

1. Leadership & Advocacy Liaison position was discussed under Governance Committee report.

VII. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn made by Phil Green; Jeff Burke seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**