

Minutes of the Meeting
State Board for Architecture
1411 Broadway; Regents' Room
New York, NY 10018

Present: Nicole Dosso, Vice Chair
Carol Bentel
Greg Canaras
Giuseppe Lauro (joined at 10:31am)
Talisha Sainvil
Marcy Stanley

Absent: Fred Mosher, Jr.
Anik Pearson, Chair
Jitendra Vaidya

Staff: Robert Lopez, Executive Secretary
Gina Sacco, Assistant in Professional
Education

Guests: None

November 6, 2024

OPEN SESSION

1. Motion: Bentel/Stanley: That the Board enter Executive Session.
2. The Board resumed the Open Session.
3. **Board Member Departure**: The Executive Secretary announced that this November meeting would have been the last for Member Vaidya. He shared an email from Member Vaidya with the Board thanking them for their support and encouragement during his 10 years of service.
4. **Approval of Minutes**: Motion: Sainvil/Stanley: That the minutes of the August 7, 2024 meeting of the State Board for Architecture be approved. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
5. **Board Chair Report**: Since Chair Pearson was absent, this report was not given.
6. **Board Office Report**: The Executive Secretary gave the Board Report. The number of licenses to be issued this year is slightly down from last year, however, the number of candidates requesting to take the exam is very similar to the prior year. The Board discussed A7716-A/S6112-A which was signed into law and will allow architects to receive an email notification regarding renewal of their registration from the State Education Department. Member Bentel requested the bill language for the two interior design bills and the Executive Secretary will provide the bills to the Board.
7. **Old Business**:
NCARB Competency Standard / 2024 NCARB MBC/MBE Summit Summary: There was overlap in the discussion surrounding these topics and the Board engaged in a lengthy conversation regarding each. Below are highlights of the discussion:

The Executive Secretary reviewed the new competency standard that was discussed at the MBC/MBE Summit. A total of 16 competencies falling under three domains (Design & Documentation, Construction Administration and Practice & Project Management) define the knowledge, skills, abilities and behaviors required for entry into the practice of architecture. The

goal is to use these competencies to design modular assessments for each one to move NCARB's Member Boards towards a more flexible and inclusive licensure model with multiple pathways.

Since this was his first experience at an NCARB meeting, Member Canaras was asked to give the Board a report of the MBC/MBE Summit. He said that the meeting gave him a good introduction and overview of NCARB and its current efforts regarding licensure. Much of the meeting was focused on the new competency standard and the assessments under consideration. He mentioned that the competency standard will inform updates to the ARE and to the AXP in the next 15-20 months. An NCARB Research and Development Task Force will be exploring new assessment models that will focus on an approach that member boards can agree upon. There are still open questions as to how education, experience, and the examination will be impacted by these future assessments.

The Board asked if New York or California presented their current alternate pathways at the meeting; the Executive Secretary informed the Board that neither jurisdiction presented their current licensure requirements at this meeting.

Education/Experience Review

Vice Chair Dosso began a discussion regarding whether there could be an education/exam-only pathway that would allow a candidate to demonstrate that they met all 16 of the competencies upon undergoing an assessment of the competencies after graduation. In so doing, an education curriculum incorporating the 16 competencies could be developed that truly prepared a candidate to practice architecture. Challenges may exist for college programs who may need additional instructors who are architects and are qualified to teach to the competencies, and this may be a significant effort for architecture programs.

The advantages of this type of pathway are that it could be more marketable to students and parents in that it would have clear alignment with the competency standard and assure licensure at a much younger age. The demonstration of meeting competencies through education may be easier to control and provide more uniformity than the current experience model which varies from firm to firm. To come up with such a model, NCARB, NAAB and an architecture program's cooperation would be essential.

Such a model would not work for every school of architecture in New York, particularly those more focused on design and theory, however, that choice could be left up to each program. The Board agreed that it may be beneficial to have a panel discussion that would include stakeholders from various New York architecture programs in addition to a variety of small and large architecture firms. Such a panel discussion would help to better understand what students are seeking, trends the schools are seeing, and what is needed by practitioners in the field. The Board was in favor of the Ad Hoc Committee on Education and Experience creating a series of questions to ask schools to start the conversation. The Board also asked that the Ad Hoc Committee continue its work in reviewing the more detailed experience requirements and proposing any suggestions for changes.

Project Construction Cost Estimates – As Chair Pearson and Member Mosher were absent, this agenda item was tabled until the February 2025 Board meeting. Member Sainvil did mention that she, along with other colleagues, have experienced similar issues that Chair Pearson mentioned at the previous meeting.

Women in Architecture Series: No update due to Chair Pearson's absence.

8. **New Business:**

NAAB Funding: The Executive Secretary summarized the report-out given at the MBC/MBE meeting regarding NAAB funding and expressed support for having a national accreditor for architecture programs.

ARE-ESL Accommodation Statistics: The Executive Secretary shared statistics sent by NCARB regarding the implementation of the ESL accommodation since May 2023. The statistics show positive improvement for New York's candidates requesting the ESL accommodation on all ARE divisions. The Board asked if additional testing time could benefit all candidates. Vice Chair Dosso requested statistics on how many candidates run out of time and how much additional time is used by candidates who receive the ESL accommodation. The Executive Secretary will request that information from NCARB.

Baseline on Belonging - Mentorship: This NCARB study was shared with the State Board and was included in the Board package. The Board commented that such a study may lend further support of the concept of an education/exam pathway to licensure.

NCARB Items: Should New York grant travel approval, Chair Pearson will attend the 2025 Regional Summit. Members Canaras and Stanley expressed interest in the 2025 Annual Meeting if Chair Pearson is unable to attend.

Architecture as a STEM Profession: The Executive Secretary informed the State Board that architecture is not currently designated by the Department of Homeland Security as a STEM profession. The profession of landscape architecture recently received such a designation. NCARB and AIA NYS have each been informed of this circumstance, along with the research conducted by ASLA and the Board expressed support to seeing architecture included on this list.

Public Board Member Search: A search for a new Public Member continues with ongoing interviews.

9. **Other Board Member Topics for Future Meetings:** none

10. Motion: Stanley/Canaras: Moved to adjourn. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Board will be Thursday, February 13, 2024, in NYC.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary

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November 6, 2024

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. The Executive Secretary shared information regarding the practical exams and that there may be a practical exam candidate at the February meeting of the State Board.
2. Motion: Bentel /Sainvil: That the Board resume the Open Session. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary