

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

Present: Anik Pearson, Chair
Nicole Dosso, Vice Chair
Carol Bentel
Greg Canaras
Giuseppe Lauro
Fred Mosher, Jr.
Talisha Sainvil (joined at 10:06am)
Marcy Stanley

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

Guests: None

February 13, 2024

OPEN SESSION

1. **Motion:** Bentel/Canaras: That the Board enter Executive Session.
2. The Board resumed the Open Session.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** **Motion:** Lauro/Bentel: That the minutes of the November 6, 2024 meeting of the State Board for Architecture be approved. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
4. **Board Chair Report:** Chair Pearson thanked the Board since this is her last meeting as Chair. She will be attending the NCARB Regional Summit at the end of the month.

Chair Pearson also attended an NCARB webinar related to NCARB's new competency standards. She noted the numerous questions asked by candidates and heightened anxiety given these new standards and potential impacts to their unique licensure situation. She noted that NCARB should keep candidates in mind when making changes to the ARE or the AXP. The Executive Secretary noted that changes in the ARE have recently been relatively stable and noted the length of time that the last two version of the ARE, 4.0 and 5.0, have been available.

Chair Pearson noted the new NAAB accreditation process has changed, and that Cooper Union is currently under review. The process now involves criteria assessments, benchmarks, and evidence-based learning that may be demanding for some architecture programs. Chair Pearson noted that she has retained her role at Cooper Union as a Licensing Advisor, and she shared the expectations that come with the role.

5. **Board Office Report:** The Executive Secretary gave the Board Report, including updated statistics, recent activities, and proposed legislation.

The Board discussed Chapter 534 of the Laws of 2024 that authorizes alternate project delivery methods in New York City, and Part Z of the NYS Executive Budget Bill that seeks to amend Ch. 534. The Executive Secretary also described the proposed changes suggested by Part Y of the NYS Executive Budget Bill that seeks an expansion of alternative project delivery to

additional State entities and adds construction manager as constructor and progressive design-build as types of alternative project delivery methods for certain State entities.

The Board described the pros and cons of the alternative project delivery method on authorized projects in which they've been involved. The Executive Secretary reviewed the White Paper on Design Build created by the Design Boards. Comments included in this White Paper share overarching themes that maintain public protection in New York and are applicable to the proposed Parts Y and Z. The State Board recommended that the technical comments shared by the Executive Secretary during the meeting and in the White Paper be passed on to Department leadership.

The Board also discussed the proposed bill language of S1834 relating to certain licensing exemptions for landscape architects and the Board did not have any technical comments regarding this proposed legislation.

The Executive Secretary noted that NCARB has sent out a Request for Comments on proposed updates to the AXP. Given the full agenda for today's meeting, the Board will have a discussion on these updates at their May meeting.

The Executive Secretary noted that NCARB has sent out five Draft Resolutions to be discussed at the NCARB Regional Summit. Chair Pearson and the Executive Secretary will review the resolutions in preparation for the NCARB Regional Summit, listen to the conversations about the resolutions during the Summit, and the Board will review all resolutions at their May meeting.

6. **Old Business:**

Education and Experience Review: The Executive Secretary described the proposed recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Education and Experience that were included in the Board package. Board members agreed that moving towards a permitted 50/50 split in Category I and J as noted in the proposal (except the "all-experience" pathway, as noted below) would offer licensure candidates increased flexibility and recognize the current models of design practice and recommended that this change be made.

Additionally, they unanimously recommended to:

- maintain professional degrees in architecture that are NAAB accredited (Category A) at the current maximum of 9 units of education award
- permit four-year pre-professional degrees in architecture (Category C) to be awarded 8 units of education credit, maximum, up from the current 7 units of credit
- permit four-year architecturally related degrees (Category D) to be awarded 6 units of education credit, maximum, up from the current 5 units of credit
- maintain degrees in subjects unrelated to architecture (Category G) at the current maximum of 2 units of education award
- permit two-year degrees in architecturally related technical programs (Category H) to be awarded 4 units of education credit, maximum, up from the current 2 units of credit

First professional degrees from a program that is not NAAB-accredited (Category B) will be maintained at the current maximum of 8 units of education award. The determination of this award is made by New York's Bureau of Comparative Education, as Category B is typically reserved for candidates with international education.

The Executive Secretary noted that the Ad Hoc Committee also recommended a reduction from the current 12 years to 10 years for the all-experience pathway, however, such a change would require a change in the Education Law. Member Lauro noted his support for this recommendation but said that these candidates may benefit from additional experience under an architect in a diversified architecture practice (Category I). He recommended that those candidates going through the all-experience pathway should be required to work for 7 years in Category I, minimum, and allowed to have 3 years, maximum in Category J. The Board unanimously agreed to this approach, provided that a change in statute can be made.

The proposed recommendations by the Board to the education and experience requirements will be brought to Department leadership to determine the best course of action to effect these changes.

Public Board Member Search: The Regents will consider the appointment of a new Public Board Member at their March 2025 meeting. If confirmed, the new Public Member's first meeting will be the May 2025 meeting of the State Board.

Project Construction Cost Estimates - NYC: Chair Pearson and Member Mosher led a discussion on the issues surrounding construction cost estimates when submitting projects for permit approval to New York City, affecting smaller projects most directly. The Department of Buildings applies their own cost estimates for certain NYC projects, with architects being asked to certify costs over which they do not control. The Executive Secretary will reach out for AIA NY and attempt to schedule a more detailed discussion with Chair Pearson to see if efforts have been made by the NY Chapter to address this issue.

ARE Statistics: The Executive Secretary shared the responses provided by NCARB regarding ARE statistics as requested by the State Board at their November 2024 meeting. The Board discussed the possibility of all candidates being afforded additional time to complete the exam; however, the extra time may result in resource issues at testing centers and additional costs for candidates.

Women in Architecture Series: Chair Pearson shared her experience with the Women in Architecture series, now in its sixth season. The Series has created a community of female architects and allowed for additional connections with mentors and those seeking to be leaders within the profession. Speakers often discuss being in the middle of their careers and described how to pivot into their next role. If any Board members have recommendations for speakers, send them to Chair Pearson.

7. **New Business:**

Elections – Chair and Vice Chair:

The Executive Secretary reviewed the annual election process and shared the responsibilities and time commitments of the Chair and Vice Chair of the State Board.

Motion: Bentel/Lauro: That Vice Chair Dosso be elected as Chair. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion: Stanley/Lauro: That Member Bentel be elected as Vice Chair. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NCARB items:

The NCARB Annual Meeting will be held from June 19-21 with travel on June 18th and 22nd. Members Stanley and Canaras expressed interest in attending.

NCARB leadership last visited the State Board in February 2024, and the Board was asked if it may be beneficial to have NCARB leadership attend its May 2025 meeting. After discussion, the Board agreed that the May meeting may be an appropriate time for NCARB to visit. Possible topics could include a high-level discussion of further embedding the new competency standards as electives taught by architects within NAAB-accredited programs and other education programs, and to review the Board's recent recommendations that give New York's education and experience requirements additional flexibility in New York. The Executive Secretary will set up a preliminary meeting with Mike Armstrong and Vice Chair Dosso ahead of the May Board meeting to preview topics.

NCARB provided a statement on Artificial Intelligence and the Executive Secretary briefly discussed it with the Board.

NCARB and AIA have developed guidance on course development for Ethics and Public Welfare topics that will be considered for health, safety and welfare continuing education credit. The Board agreed that this document should be used by Board staff when reviewing such topics and assessing if they meet our HSW requirements.

The call for NCARB Committee volunteers was sent out by email and is open through March 8, 2025, and all Board members are encouraged to volunteer for committees as their schedules permit. Member Stanley shared that involvement in NCARB has provided a great avenue to connect with other public members of the State Boards around the US.

8. **Other Board Member Topics for Future Meetings:**

Architecture as a STEM profession should continue to be included on the Board agenda and should also be included in the conversation with NCARB in May.

The November meeting of the State Board will be moved from November 6 to November 13.

Member Bentel thanked Chair Pearson and Vice Chair Dosso for serving the State Board in their respective leadership roles.

Motion: Mosher/Sainvil: Moved to adjourn. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Board will be Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in NYC.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. The Executive Secretary shared that there was a cancellation of a practical exam for this meeting that will most likely be rescheduled for the May meeting of the State Board.
2. Two disciplinary cases were reviewed.
3. Motion: Stanley/Mosher: That the Board resume the Open Session. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary