

NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR OPTOMETRY

New York State Board for Optometry
Monday May 19, 2025 9:30am
SUNY College of Optometry
Alden Haffner Conference Room, 12th Floor
33 W 42nd St, New York, NY 10036

Members Present: Dana Salgado, Alison Risko, Daniella Rutner, Michele Lagana, Richard Soden, Jeffrey Calhoun, James Coney, Obinna Akano

Extended Members: Frank Pirozzolo, Wayne Gabel

Members Absent:

SED Staff: Dolores Cottrell, Steven Calderon, Azriel Paris

Guests: Dr. David Troilo- SUNY Optometry, Mr. Tome Coté-NYSOA

Welcome: Dr. Cottrell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. David Troilo, president of SUNY Optometry welcomed the Board to SUNY College of Optometry and gave an update on the college. He stated that Dr. Melissa Trego has been announced as the Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs. Dr. Troilo announced the creation of an extension program at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. The program will combine remote classroom teaching directly from the college's New York City location and clinical teaching at the Syracuse location. The program will be equivalent to the program taught at the college's New York City location. Dr. Sarah Gleason has been announced as the founding director of the Upstate program. The first class is expected to begin in August 2026.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 13, 2025 meeting were approved as corrected. (Akano/Rutner).

Executive Secretary's Report

Dr. Cottrell started her report by introducing Dr. Steven Calderon as the new Executive Secretary for the Optometry Board. She stated Dr. Risko will be attending ARBO's annual meeting taking place June 3rd, in Minneapolis, MN. Dr. Cottrell also spoke of her experience at ARBO's previous annual meeting in Nashville, TN and encouraged other Board members to attend.

Chair Report.

Dr. Salgado welcomed Dr. Calderon to the Board. She discussed ARBO's March Happy Hour Meeting. The meeting featured a discussion from ARBO's legal counsel Dale Atkinson, esq. Dr. Salgado discussed inviting more guests to future meetings.

Legislative Update

The Board discussed Assembly Bill A.2202 which seeks to amend Education Law §7101-a in relation to the use of topical pharmaceutical agents. The bill is currently with the Assembly's Higher Education Committee.

Old Business

Discussion About Updating Regulations -The Board discussed updating Commissioner's Regulations §66.2 and §66.3. The Board discussed updating and combining sections a and b in §66.2 to specifically include the NBEO Parts I, II, and III examinations, and include a pathway for additional examinations to be accepted if the Board determines that such examination are equivalent in content and acceptable for licensure.

New Business

Discussion of updates made to optometry licensure forms-Azriel Paris presented the changes that the Department made to the Optometry Licensure Forms 3,4, and 4A. The forms were updated to clarify the requirements for applicants applying for licensure by endorsement.

Guidance for Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents Continuing Education- The Board will work on list of continuing education topics to provide guidance as to which topics would be acceptable to fulfill the continuing education requirement for optometrists with the oral therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certification,

Discussion on if prescribing medications that are self injected by the patient are within an optometrist's scope of practice- The Board determined that the use or prescription of such drugs are not within the current scope of optometric practice in New York State.

Discussion on Drugs Fitting within Statute

The Board discussed whether certain drugs fit within the statutory definition of pharmaceuticals certified for optometrists to prescribe.

Next Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be tentatively held on Monday, September 29, 2025 in New York City.

Executive Session: There were no disciplinary cases to be reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was approved for Adjournment at 11:32 p.m. (Coney/Calhoun).