

**ARKANSAS
STATE BOARD
OF COSMETOLOGY**

**COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Jane Powell, President

Nick Downey, 2nd Vice President

Brenda Gray (also representing the Beauticians Association)

Patricia Turman

Kathy Wittum, Director

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Representing the Arkansas School Owners Association

Dawn Creekmore

Tracy Akard

Chris Strawn

Representing the Arkansas Alliance for Cosmetology Education

Linda Lee

Minutes of the Meeting

There were two meetings called for September 26, 2005. The first meeting scheduled was for this committee meeting that was initiated by Board President Powell on September 20, 2005. The time scheduled for the committee meeting was 9:30 a.m., and after it being scheduled, the Board was contacted by Representative Chris Thyer from Jonesboro who requested that the Board reconsider their decision to not grant student hours under the past office policy called "Extracurricular Activities Student Credit-Hour Policy." The Board called a special meeting to begin at 8:30 a.m. on this same day. This proved to be more cost efficient since board members were already scheduled to be at the office for both the committee meeting and examinations that were being administered.

Upon making the decision to initiate a committee meeting, Board President Powell and Ms. Wittum sent a letter dated September 20, 2005, to Brenda Gulley, President for the Arkansas School Owners Association. Ms. Gulley was requested to help in providing three (3) school owners willing to participate in drafting language for the Board's approval. It was unknown to Ms. Wittum at that time that other associations existed that may want to also participate. This was not realized until after Ms. Wittum received a letter from Linda Lee, President for the Arkansas Alliance for Cosmetology Education. Board President Powell and Ms. Wittum discussed the oversight and an invitation was extended to Ms. Lee to allow for her to have three (3) school owners also participate. Board member Brenda Gray, President for the Beauticians Association, was also informed of the oversight and an invitation was extended to her to also have other participants present, if desired.

The committee meeting was approximately an hour late in starting because the Mainstreet Mall was evacuated due to a suspected gas leak. The discussion at the beginning of the meeting was focused on the fact that the representatives for the Arkansas School Owners Association believed they had been purposefully omitted from the special meeting. A public notice was published in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and a copy of the public notice was faxed to Representative Thyer; however, Ms. Creekmore, Ms. Akard, and Ms. Strawn stated that they were unaware of the meeting. Board President Powell and Ms. Wittum expressed that it was not the Board's intent to exclude anyone from the meeting.

Once the meeting turned to the rule revision concerning student hours, Ms. Creekmore questioned whether students would be given credit for hours to attend the NCA of Arkansas event that occurred over the weekend. Ms. Wittum stated that students would have been eligible for hours for this event; however, no requests were submitted for approval. Ms. Wittum explained that under the current Rules and Regulations the NCA of Arkansas (formerly known as the Arkansas Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association) was the only association that could sponsor events where students could receive credit hours.

Ms. Strawn questioned why the Extracurricular Activities Student Credit-Hour Policy was being reviewed now. Ms. Wittum stated that it was because of the questions she raised concerning the policy when requests for approval were submitted for an event in Tulsa. Ms. Wittum stated that when she reviewed the law and Rules and Regulations, she discovered Regulation 71-859, Section 4, which permitted students to receive hours in this way when they attended the annual event sponsored by the Arkansas Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association. Although this section is proposed to be stricken from the Board's Rules and Regulations, it is currently a valid regulation. Ms. Wittum stated that as she conferred with the Board's legal counsel and asked questions of the Board concerning the policy, her concerns grew over what she was told. For this reason, she made the decision to suspend any approvals

until the Board discussed this issue at the meeting on September 19th. Ms. Wittum expressed agreement for proposing to strike Regulation 71-859, Section 4, due to its obvious discrimination against other associations that may choose to hold events for students. She stated that she would like to see revisions made that would allow for a fair and equal system to be included, if students are to be allowed to gain hours by participating in off-campus activities.

During the discussion that followed, Ms. Wittum questioned different aspects of the school owners' involvement in off-campus activities in an effort to learn more about this issue from their perspective. The majority of the committee participants acknowledged that there was a potential for abuse that compromised the integrity of the cosmetology industry; however, it was also recognized that events of this nature provide motivational and educational opportunities for students. Although Ms. Akard and Ms. Creekmore stated that they do not regularly have students participate in off-campus activities, they emphasized that schools should have the option to participate and have their students receive credit hours when doing so. Ms. Strawn stated that she regularly has students participate in these type events and considers them to be beneficial to her students.

In contrast, Ms. Lee stated that events of this nature are generally abused and she considers them to be too difficult for instructors to monitor and manage. She stated that students should receive their education within the confines of the schools and students should not have to be rewarded in exchange for an education. Ms. Turman concurred with Ms. Lee's opinion.

There was a discussion concerning Regulation 71-859, Section 2, which states, "Actual experience time is defined as classroom instruction or clinical work or experience under supervision of a bona fide instructor. Break time should be on a scheduled basis as lunch, coffee, etc., and shall not be counted as classroom instruction time or creditable time. The only creditable time permitted when the clinic facility is closed will be classroom instruction." Ms. Lee stated that because the above-stated language specifies "classroom instruction or clinical work" and because a "bona fide instructor" does not teach all events that students attend, then students should not be permitted to attend based upon this regulation. Ms. Akard questioned why the language "or experience under supervision of a bona fide instructor" would not allow for off-campus activities, as these events are an "experience" for students.

In consideration of the time, Board President Powell stated that she believed the committee should allow Ms. Wittum to draft language for the committee to review based on the information shared during the meeting. The committee participants had no objections. Ms. Wittum stated that she would email the draft language to them and requested that each association representative(s) be responsible to share it with their associations and provide feedback before the deadline given in the email. She also explained that the draft would be presented to the Board during the November 14th meeting for approval.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wittum, Director