

This publication is designed to provide timely updates on the actions and discussions of the NCARB Board of Directors immediately following meetings. Please remember that the information provided here may be confidential and will be indicated as such when necessary.



The Board of Directors of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), at its third meeting of fiscal year 2015, reviewed a draft of the FY16 budget, finalized resolutions regarding alternative paths to certification and qualifications to serve as a Public Director on the NCARB Board, and discussed ways to add benefits to the NCARB Certificate. The meeting, held April 23-25, was led by President/Chair of the Board Dale McKinney, FAIA, NCARB.

Board Actions

Broadly Experienced Architect (BEA) Program

The Board voted to amend the draft resolution that adjusts how an architect, without a degree from an accredited program, could apply for an NCARB Certificate. A draft resolution circulated to the membership in December proposes to adjust the BEA program. Currently, the BEA program requires up to \$8,000 in fees, with a review process that includes dossier preparation and committee review to determine whether a licensee without an accredited education would qualify for an NCARB Certificate. The draft resolution adjusts the BEA process to require licensed

architects, without accredited education, to demonstrate their competency through validated experience via the Intern Development Program (IDP) criteria. The draft resolution removes the dossier review by committee and the education evaluation (where applicable) from the process. This proposed change would continue to recognize licensees from the 17 jurisdictions who do not require accredited education, and build upon the pre-licensure experience requirements already imposed. The Board voted unanimously to revise the December draft resolution as follows:

- Require five years of post-licensure practice for all licensees without accredited education who are seeking an NCARB Certificate instead of the previously proposed two years.
- Require completion of twice the IDP requirements for those holding a pre-professional degree.
- Require five times the IDP requirements for those with anything less than a pre-professional degree.

These latest revisions preserve the ability of all licensees, regardless of education, to remain eligible for the NCARB

Certificate. The Board's deliberations regarding BEA program reform were the culmination of almost two years of Board study. The first draft resolution was issued at the June 2014 Annual Business Meeting. Comment received from Member Boards over the summer of 2014 led to focused feedback sessions at the Member Board Chairs/Executives Workshop last fall. Accordingly, the Board issued a revised draft last year after its December meeting. That draft was discussed at the January Committee Summit and March Regional Summit.

At the Regional Summit, concerns voiced by the membership relating to this resolution involved:

- Further reinforcement of the degree from a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB)-accredited program as the preferred option to satisfy the Certificate's education requirements.
- Acknowledgement that 17 jurisdictions will grant a license without a degree from a NAAB-accredited program, allowing additional experience as a substitute for educational deficiency.
- Acknowledgement that 12 of the aforementioned 17 jurisdictions allow licensure with a high school diploma.
- The significant difference between the education obtained with a four-year pre-professional degree (degrees leading directly to a degree from a NAAB-accredited Bachelor of Architecture program) versus other degrees.
- The desire to avoid excluding anyone who can obtain a license in an NCARB Member jurisdiction.

With these considerations in mind—and with the goal of proposing national policy that can be used by all jurisdictions—the Board voted unanimously to offer a third draft as its formal BEA overhaul resolution. This resolution will be scheduled for a membership vote this June at the NCARB Annual Business Meeting.

Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect (BEFA) Program

The Board voted to formally adopt the resolution as introduced to the membership at the June 2014 Annual Business Meeting. The resolution would modify the program's current requirements to eliminate committee dossier review and instead impose the same experience and examination criteria required of U.S. architect candidates. Instead of requiring the documentation of seven years of credentialed practice in a foreign country, the new resolution would require BEFA applicants to complete the IDP and to pass the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®). Implementing these proposed changes would automate the program, reducing fees while eliminating the dossier and interview requirements.

The draft resolution was submitted for comment to Member Boards last June, and for discussion at the Regional Summit in March. A final resolution will be presented to the entire Membership for a vote at the June Annual Business Meeting.

Other Board Actions

- **The Board approved \$25K in funding to create a Scholarship Fund for Public Member Board Members.** This endowment is for the express purpose of enabling Member Board Members to attend the 2015 Annual Business Meeting. The Board is committed to increasing participation and representation of public members on Member Boards, and authorized this measure to ensure greater attendance by this constituent group.
- **The Board reviewed and approved pricing models for the IDP and ARE.** The Executive Committee began its study of the Council's fee models with a high-level overview of all fee structures during the September 2014 meeting. A more in-depth examination of fees for the IDP and the ARE was undertaken in December. The Executive Committee's analysis was then delivered to

the NCARB staff so they could develop final proposals for consideration at the April 2015 Executive Committee meeting. The new fee structure will be announced as part of the Treasurer's Report at the Annual Business Meeting.

- **The Board approved the proposed mapping of 17 experience areas to the new IDP structure of 6 practice-based areas.** The Internship Committee led the IDP Overhaul mapping process. This included linking the tasks identified in the 2012 Practice Analysis of Architecture, Internship Report, as well as realigning the 17 current IDP experience areas and reallocating the 3,740 required hours to correlate with the 6 new practice-based areas defined by the IDP Overhaul.
- **The Board approved supplemental experience activities that qualify for Core Hours for IDP Overhaul.** The Internship Committee recommended two experience settings to be implemented as part of the overhaul of IDP, effective July 1, 2016: Experience Setting A: Practice of Architecture and Experience Setting O: Other Experiences. The committee recommended eliminating the following experience opportunities: Leadership & Service, Emerging Professional's Companion, Teaching or Research, CSI Certification (CBT), GBCI LEED AP, and Advanced Degrees.
- **The Board accepted the report by the Future Title Task Force—led by past President Blakely Dunn.** Staff was directed to develop a process for announcing next steps. More information will be shared at a later date.

General Board Business Highlights

CEO Update

CEO Mike Armstrong reviewed the Council's FY15 achievements. Some highlights include:

- **Member Engagement & Support,** including over 15 visits to state boards, a healthy response to the Board Survey (Report Card), and hosting the MBC/MBE Conference.

- **Enhanced Customer Engagement,** including the launch of Architect: Spotlight, to recognize recently licensed architects; the ARE 4.0 Online Community, to support ARE candidates; and new mini-monographs, as a free continuing education resource for Certificate holders.
- **Policy Changes,** including honoring older IDP hours at 50% credit; immediate ARE rescheduling for failed exams, reducing the retest wait time from six months to 60 days, and expanding retesting opportunities from 2 to 3 times annually.
- **Blue-Sky Sessions,** included discussion on the future of the ARE, and how to add value to the Certificate.
- **Leadership Development,** including Board training on strategic and fiduciary roles, and collaboration with Regional Chairs regarding content development for Regional Summit and Annual Business Meeting agendas.

As the Council approaches FY16, Armstrong reported on the initiatives that are underway in support of NCARB's strategic goals to facilitate licensure, foster collaboration, and centralize credential data. Two major initiatives to note are: 1) Implementing program changes, which include ARE 5.0 systems development, the streamline and overhaul of the IDP program, and revisions to the alternate paths to certification, and 2) Exploring business development opportunities, such as engaging test-preparation providers regarding ARE 5.0, and the potential licensing of customized systems. Other initiatives driving staff activities in the coming year include:

- Ethics Task Force
- Integrated Path to Licensure
- Website Modernization
- New Renewal System
- Data Sharing
- Benefits of Certification

Financial Report

Treasurer Kristine Harding, AIA, NCARB, presented her review of the Council's financial activity since July 1. She reported that income is slightly above budgeted expectations (up 14.7 percent, or \$2.5M) while expenses are below expectations (down 3.32 percent, or \$567,000). Operating and short-term reserve funds are within the target range defined by the Board's investment policy. At the end of March, \$775K was transferred to the short-term fund from the operating fund, which increased it to its maximum. \$1.75M has been transferred out of the operating fund to the long-term reserve fund this fiscal year. The long-term reserve fund is approximately \$5.5M below the new minimum target balance set at the December 2014 BOD meeting.

Board members were also given a preview of the Annual Business Meeting draft agenda, which will feature five workshops on topics ranging from enforcement and sunset review best practices to updates on NCARB initiatives. Votes at the final session will include two contested races for Board officers and three resolutions. The meeting, scheduled in New Orleans for June 17-20, will include a keynote address regarding the revitalization of New Orleans, officer reports, and the unveiling of the latest edition of *NCARB by the Numbers*, which includes new jurisdiction-specific data sets. Registration is available now, with NCARB providing funding for two Member Board Members and one executive per jurisdiction, along with a first-come, first-served scholarship pool for public members sitting on Member Boards.