

President's Report

This report outlines the work and accomplishments of Council for the 2018 Council year. Council follows a Policy Governance model, and as such its initiatives and work are directly tied to its Policy Manual. The manual outlines Council's expectations for itself and the CEO, and the policies within fall into the following four categories:

- The Ends – The objectives the CEO is expected to accomplish
- The Executive Limitations – The bounds within which the CEO may work
- The Governance Policies – The way in which Council governs
- The Council-Executive Policies – The way in which Council works with the CEO

The Ends

At the highest level, Council expects the CEO and the Association to ensure that “the interests of the Public of Manitoba are protected, as they relate to the practice of engineering and geoscience and that the results should be worth the resources expended”. Throughout the year Council reviews reporting from the CEO which provide evidence of this fact. We are satisfied that the work of the Association continues to ensure that the public interest is protected.

Further to that purpose, in December, Council asked that the CEO place priority on achieving the following sub-Ends:

- 1) The public understand and values the contribution of the professions (4.2)
- 2) Government understands the issues impacting the public interest as they relate to the professions (4.4)
- 3) By 2030, 30% of newly licensed engineers will be women (5.2)

With regards to public perception, the primary way the Association addressed this was through a public advertising campaign. Public perception was measured through a professional survey conducted by Probe Research. The results obtained were positive indicating that 76% said that the work of engineers and geoscientists was an important part of daily life and 69% saying it would be important in the future.

With regards to government relations, we continue to have an excellent two way relationship. We are thankful for the opportunity we have been given to bring matters of importance forward, and be included in the conversation when legislative changes are being considered.

With regards to increasing the enrollment of women, we feel concrete action needs to be taken if we are to see any results. This year the Association has launched a new Engineering Changes Lives campaign with key partnerships to achieve this End. In the coming year we will be looking closely to ensure that the campaign is achieving the results we expect it to.

The Executive Limitations

Council monitors all Executive Limitations on an annual basis. The monitoring has shown that the CEO is operating within those limitations.

Further to this we have brought increased transparency and rigour to the process in the following ways:

- We tasked the Audit Committee with direct inspection of the Financial Condition. The Audit Committee found the CEO to be compliant and also recommended process changes that would improve transparency around how restricted funds are listed, which has now been put into policy.
- Treatment of staff was previously self-monitored by the CEO. This year the President was assigned this role, and I personally interviewed staff to confirm compliance. I am happy to report that the Association operates in an open and welcoming work environment that well exceeds the minimum requirements set out by the Executive Limitations.

The Governance Policies

Council monitors all of its Governance Policies on an annual basis looking for both compliance and ways for continual improvement. In previous years this was effectively done as annual check-ins at the point of monitoring. This year Council felt that a more proactive and intentional approach was warranted and pre-assigned all policies to Councillors, tasking them with safe guarding and ensuring the application of those policies throughout the year. Council also felt that increased oversight and involvement in the development of the budget was warranted and has now implemented a separate Finance Committee which will work with the CEO throughout the year in the development of the operational budget.

The Council-Executive Policies

This year, Council added annual monitoring of the Council-Executive Policies to its monitoring schedule, and the reports have shown that we are compliant.

Closing Remarks

It has been a privilege to serve as the Chair of Council over this past year. As President, I would like to thank all the Councillors for their hard work and dedication. It has also been wonderful to meet with members and represent our Association at events throughout the year.

I am confident that the President-Elect, Ruth Eden, will provide great leadership in the coming year. I wish her all the best, and I look forward to supporting Council and the Association as Past President.