



SUMMARY REPORT

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Education Subcommittee Meeting
October 8, 2004
Sacramento, California

MEETING ATTENDED BY:

Education Subcommittee Members Present

Richard Zweifel, Chair
Christine Anderson
Linda Gates
Steve Lang
Heidi Martin
Alexis Slafer
Karina Verhoeven

Staff Present

Doug McCauley, California Architects Board (CAB) Executive Officer
Mona Maggio, Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) Program Manager
Mary Anderson, Examination Coordinator
Patricia Fay, Licensing Coordinator
Justin Sotelo, Enforcement/Special Projects Analyst

Guests Present

Larry Rohlfes, Assistant Executive Director of the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA)
Ron Nishinaka, Reedley College

The meeting began at 10:20 a.m. Mona Maggio, LATC Program Manager, introduced herself and welcomed and thanked the committee for volunteering their services to participate on the Education Subcommittee.

Ms. Maggio stated that the Education Subcommittee is charged with reviewing the education and experience requirements found in California Code of Regulations section 2620, for a candidate to become eligible to take the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) and the California Supplemental Examination (CSE), which ultimately leads to licensure in California.

Ms. Maggio added that the Subcommittee was appointed by the LATC to address the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee's (JLSRC) 1996 Report and the most recent 2004 Sunset Review recommendations that directs the LATC to review the eligibility requirements to sit for the examination in California. These requirements were addressed in both the 2003 and 2004 Strategic Plans. In addition, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) recently set its own eligibility standards to take sections of the LARE which are inconsistent with the LATC's eligibility standards.

Ms. Maggio noted that the Subcommittee would review the current path to licensure which includes: education, experience, and examination requirements, as well as the relationship of education to the examination. The goal of the Subcommittee is to finalize any proposed recommendations for presentation to the LATC by August 2005. As part of its charge, the Subcommittee will develop a process to review the eligibility requirements on a continual basis.

Richard Zweifel, Chair of the Subcommittee, gave a brief overview of the Subcommittee's role and charge. He stated that the Subcommittee is charged with reviewing the education and experience requirements to become eligible to take the LARE, the CSE, and ultimately licensure. The Subcommittee represents a cross section of licensees who have knowledge and diverse areas of practices, as well as years of experience as a landscape architect and have demonstrated expertise in the general subject. Specifically, the Subcommittee will determine appropriate levels of education and experience as they relate to: 1) public health, safety, and welfare in California, and 2) successfully preparing candidates for the examination. Upon completing its evaluation, the Subcommittee will present findings and recommendations to the LATC regarding any potential changes to the eligibility requirements.

The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the Table of Equivalents (eligibility requirements table) provided by CLARB member board jurisdictions. A wide variety of requirements exist throughout the nation. The Subcommittee found that the six-year requirement for California, as a whole, is reasonably consistent with other states' eligibility requirements. Mr. Zweifel stated that it is important to remember that while reviewing requirements of other states, California has the largest licensee population and largest candidate population taking the examination. He added that reciprocity is also an issue when considering licensure in California and California licensees seeking reciprocity in other states.

Ms. Maggio requested that the Subcommittee actually review the current requirements for reciprocity and possibly propose regulatory language to clarify the requirements for out-of-state licensees seeking reciprocity in California.

Mr. Zweifel invited public comment. Larry Rohlfes, Assistant Executive Director of the CLCA introduced himself and stated the purpose of his attendance today is to learn the historical background of the current eligibility requirements in the Landscape Architects Practice Act and the examination process. He also hoped that the Subcommittee would consider proposing to the LATC a means for landscape contractors to sit for the LARE and CSE without having to meet the current education requirements. Mr. Rohlfes stated that CLCA members do understand the balance of education and experience necessary to protect the consumer, but believe the LATC might be overly restrictive and exclusionary as it relates to landscape contractors in California.

Ron Nishinaka, Reedley College Administrator, introduced himself and stated he is present today to gain information on how Reedley College can apply for accreditation by the LATC or otherwise have its curriculum in landscape architecture approved so that a degree from Reedley College would be accepted by the LATC to meet the education requirements for acceptance to the examination.

Linda Gates informed Mr. Nishinaka that the LATC does not approve the associate degree programs. An associate degree in landscape architecture from a community college is acceptable to meet the one-year education requirement. However, the Subcommittee did question how landscape architectural associate degree programs are monitored and accredited. After discussion on this matter, the Subcommittee directed staff to obtain the curricula from the landscape architecture associate degree programs in California for the Subcommittee's review to determine what is being taught in these programs and determine the appropriate credit for an associate degree. Currently, applicants are given one-year credit for an associate degree in landscape architecture.

Mr. Zweifel led the discussion and review of the documents provided in the meeting agenda binder. This included the following: 1) 1996 JLSRC Sunset Review Findings and Recommendations; 2) LATC's response to the 2003 JLSRC questions; 3) 2004 Department of Consumer Affairs recommendations for the LATC; 4) California Code of Regulations section 2620; 5) 1996 CLARB Task Analysis Summary; 6) Licensure Support Resource Guide; 7) list of approved California Landscape Architectural Programs; 8) landscape architecture curriculum from: California State Polytechnic University Pomona; California State Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo; University California (UC), Berkeley and UC Berkeley Extension Program; UC Davis; University of Southern California; and UC Los Angeles and UC Los Angeles Extension Program; 9) LARE and licensure eligibility requirements for each state compiled by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA); 10) eligibility requirements to sit for the computer administered LARE; 11) LARE structure and content; 12) CAB's examination and licensure requirements; and 13) Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and Land Surveyors examination and licensure requirements.

The Subcommittee identified the following tasks to be completed and sent to the Subcommittee prior to its next meeting.

1. Staff is to develop a matrix to determine if there is a correlation between the type of degree earned, school attended and experience earned. The Subcommittee directed staff to develop a matrix with the following categories: 1) LA program attended; 2) degree earned; 3) experience earned; and 4) number of attempts to pass each section of the LARE. Staff was directed to pull the licensing files from the most recent 100 licensees to gather the information for the matrix.
2. Review examination eligibility requirements of like design professions, inclusive of other states, to identify the different paths to licensure afforded to candidates with regard to examination.
3. Review other models of entry for LARE eligibility.

4. Obtain the Employment Verification Form used by CLARB and CAB to use as a guide for revising the current form used by the LATC.
5. Staff was asked to obtain and disseminate the Landscape Architecture Body of Knowledge (LABOK) study currently being conducted. The report should be ready by the end of November 2004.
6. The Subcommittee directed staff to create a work plan with tasks outlined as discussed, ensuring that staff and Subcommittee members understand the direction from the Subcommittee. Once the draft is complete, the work plan and assigned tasks will be forwarded to the Subcommittee for review, approval and assignments.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 25, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.