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TO: BOABC Executive Committee and Members
FROM: Eddie Ho, Vice-President
DATE: May 5, 2009
SUBJECT: Annual Report – Certification Committee

It is with mixed feeling as I write this report. I retired from UBC in September last year, so this will be my last report as Vice President and Executive of the Association since 1999. During the last 10 years, I came in contact with many respectable professionals who are truly passionate and faithful in their work. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with a team who are truly dedicated to the Association. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to George Humphrey, Bob Light and Peter Sweeney. I have learned much from them and for that I am very appreciative. I also have had a lot of fun, made many good friends and have many great lasting memories.

Fall 2008 (November) Examinations

Level 1: 60 exams written (37 members & 23 from BCIT)
30 (50%) passed (19 members & 10 from BCIT BLDG1810 & 1 from BLDG 1500)
Level 2: 34 exams written (all members)
13 passed (38%)
Level 3: 148 exams written (Papers 1 to 10 inclusive)
118 passed, 30 failed (80%)

“Changes” of Policies & Examination Format

The Executive Committee approved policies on the Certification Committee and the new Examination Committee on January 24, 2009. Their respective roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. Upon examining details of both documents, I believe that the Certification Committee, under the now-“Executive Committee approved” Purpose and Composition policy, should be the sole Committee responsible in dealing with the current uprising exam issues.

These issues of change are urgent and paramount as the Executive Director persistently advised a number of Level 3 candidates that they should retake their “passed” papers, which are now modified to the new 5-paper format. So far, the Executive Director has failed to respond to my repeated enquiries about the source of his authority or directive for this examination change. My questions to the Executive Director are:

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1. Who initiated and implemented the changes without a resolution from the Executive Committee and consultation with the membership?
2. What is the financial impact to the Association when the BOABC head office announced that future ICC-graded examinations are complimentary for all Level-3 candidates who have already started the 10-paper process? I understand that the International Code Council is charging a fee for each and every paper they process.
3. How many current Level 3 candidates are required to rewrite their "passed" papers, and how many are required to restart their challenges and to write all Level 3 under the new 5-paper format?
4. How many complaints or expression of concerns received by the Executive Director's office about the changes and his respective responses to them?
5. Who has issued the directive to the Executive Director for the implementation of the 5-paper format?
6. Provide minutes of all meetings of the Examination Committee since its appointment.

I feel these questions are valid and the Executive Director should answer all questions for the benefit of the membership and the Association.

I do not recall any changes were discussed during collaboration of "policies" at the January Executive meeting. Particularly, there was no discussion on either the adoption of the 5-paper Level 3 exam or elimination of the 10-paper format. Also, there was no delegation of the implementation of new policies to any committee or staff. This situation indicates someone within our Association had acted on his own agenda and hence, represented the Association without the approval of the Executive Committee.

For the record, the Certification Committee was not aware of the exam change and has not recommended any changes to the Executive Committee for a new examination format. The Certification Committee is also standing by their intent and recommendation to the members as noted in the following statement published in the 2006 Fall/Winter News & Report:

"Members who start their Level 3 Certification using the 10-exam format (the only format available at present) will be allowed to continue using this format. It is not the intention of the Certification Committee to confuse members with two different exam formats, but to have Members complete their Level Three Certification using the format of exams that was available when they started".

This statement was repeated at least at two Annual General Meetings to the members and at many exam sittings.

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It is not that the Certification Committee disagrees with the fundamental directions of the Association or the need for changes to address the needs of members. There is a proper and diligent way to move towards the fundamental changes as proposed, circumventing that process and the involvement of members is not the way of operating a legitimate public organization.

We are not arguing against a 5-paper exam format or closer alignment with ACBOA, we are arguing that the details of the changes have been hastily planned and implemented, not approved by the membership, against approved policies and are not in the best interest of the membership or the Association.

With Certification being a vital function of the Association, any changes to the exam format should be carefully executed. I urge the in-coming Executive Committee act swiftly to rectify the situation. Any delay in resolving these issues will compromise the welfare of the candidates, the integrity of those involved in the process, and the reputation of the Association, hence putting our organization at risk.

Respectfully submitted.

Eddie Ho, Vice President

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