

CTCMA Annual General Meeting 2003

Sunday November 23, 2003

Present: Mason Loh (Board Chair), Carole Ann Soong (Board member), Tahmineh Nikookar (Board Member, Finances Chair), Philippe Souvestre (Interim Co-Registrar, Board Member), Ting Ting Jiang (Board Member), Hoi Lam Kong (Board Member), Sunny To Chi Lee (Board Member), John Noonan (Registered Parliamentarian), Richard Mew (Auditor), Loryl Russell (Legal Counsel), staff of CTCMA and 185 registrants

Apologies: Angus Yuen (Board Member), Glenn Morezewich (Board Member)

Meeting began at 2:20 p.m. with Mason Loh in the Chair

Mason on behalf of the Board, welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting 2003 of the College and introduced the Board Members, the Registered Parliamentarian, and the Legal Counsel to the attendance.

Convention Standing Rules

Mason introduced the Convention Standing Rules. The Rules was

Moved for approval: Ivy Pang

Seconded: Jenny Jian Yi Huang

Motion passed.

Adoption of Agenda:

Shelley Page requested to add a post-resolution to be discussed. Mason put the item at the end of the Agenda and if there were time it would be discussed.

Agenda was adopted with no amendments.

Contrary: 5 registrants.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2002 AGM minutes:

The minutes were adopted as circulated.

Chairman's Remarks:

Mason summarized that

1. The College had successfully conducted its first election in December 2002 and 6 registrants were elected in the Board effective on January 1, 2003 for 2-years term.
2. The College had created Quality Assurance Committee, Discipline Committee, Patient Relations Committee, Standard of Education Committee, Scope of Practice Task Force according to the Bylaws, and Bylaws Amendment Ad Hoc Committee, Personal Committee, Professional TCM Herbal Committee on the request of the Board since the beginning of 2003. The chairs of those Committees would present a report each, no longer than 3 minutes, except the Finances Committee, which might need more time to report.
3. The Grandparented registration was completed in April 2003. Over 363 TCM licences were issued and in June 13, 2003, a first Registration Ceremony was held at UBC Chan's Center at UBC. On the side, about 100 out of grandparented applicants disputed with the College about the decision of the Registration Committee. We had only 3 cases that needed to be referred to legal counsel.
4. The College was going through some difficult times at the moment due to the issues with the former Registrar. The concern started in March 2003 from the auditor's warning about the problematic account system at the College. In June, the auditor again reported to the Board about the presentation of the financial statement. The Finances Committee appointed the auditor and started formal investigation relating to financial status of the College. After 5 months of investigation, the Board was forced to sadly terminate the Registrar. This dilemma had caused a lot of controversy in the Profession, not fully aware of the fact, and the College had been trying to maintain as much transparency as allowed by the legal nature of the fact in this sensitive situation. The College's legal counsel is Loryl Russell, who specializes in employment matters.
5. The Board was working diligently at hiring a new Registrar as soon as possible.

Mason highly appreciated the hard work of the Board members and staff of the College, as well as our auditor, legal counsels. Mason also thanked the support of the Government and of our registrants.

Financial and Auditor's Report

Due to the circumstances, the financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2003 was reported by the auditor, Mr. Richard Mew.

Mr. Mew presented his background to the attendance and indicated that he had been working for CTCMA for 6 years. He pointed out that he never got any proper Financial Statement from the College, which were supposed to be received 2 months after end of the fiscal year, this is in May of each year. He got the financial statement of 2003 only in September 2003, and this explains why the financial statement was not delivered on time

to the registrants of the College. Besides, there was No accounting system in the College during the previous years. However, the limited time did not affect the fairness of the explanation of the statement. The financial statement presented fairly in all aspects the financial position of the College as at March 31, 2003 except the accuracy of revenues.

Some registrants raised questions about the connection between the financial statement and the termination of the former-registrar. Mason pointed out that the approval of the financial statement did not mean anything against an individual. Mr. Mew emphasized that the Registrar was responsible for the account of the College.

John Noonan advised to vote about the continuum of the debate because there were still many items to report.

Agreed to close the debate: 65 registrants including proxies

Contrary: 112 registrants including proxies

Debate continued.

Mr. Mew disclosed some detailed findings relating to the former Registrar's conduct. . He pointed out that he had found a small amount of irregularities in 1999. An 80 pages document was presented, as the evidence of finding for 2002-2003 was only a sample of the full amount of evidence found.

Mason moved to adopt the Financial Statement 2003.

The Financial Statement was adopted as circulated.

Re-appointment of Auditor

Mason reported that the Board would like to recommend Mr. Richard Mew and his company to be re-appointed to be the auditor of the College.

Moved for adoption: Pierre Rothe

During the discussion on this motion Leslie Moncrieff suggested that the position of Auditor ought to be put out to tender.

Mason suggested to vote since there was such a controversy.

Agreed to adopt the recommendation of the Board: 71 registrants including proxies

Contrary: 124 registrants including proxies

Soon after, Shong Yan Wang and Steven Guang Lin Hou moved to re-consider the re-appointment of the auditor.

Re-voted result was:

Agreed to re-consider: 84 registrants including proxies

Contrary: 108 registrants including proxies

Mason moved to authorize the Board to appoint an independent auditor.
The motion was carried.

Because the time was past 4:00pm, Mason moved to extend the meeting till 6:00 pm.
The motion was carried.

During the question and answer between the Board, Auditor and Registrants, a few Registrants raised questions such as the responsibilities of the Board, the role of the Chair of the Board and the process of the termination of the ex-registrar.

Rene Lei Chen moved to re-consider the appointment of the auditor due to the potential legal process.
John Noonan advised that it was the right of the assembly. Disagreed by Grant Smith and Henry Dent.

Tahmineh revised the motion, suggested to ask for the decision of all the registrants of the College.
Motion passed.

Due to the lack of time, Mason moved to skip the Interim Registrar and Committee Chairs' Reports, and announced they would be published soon in the next CTCMA Newsletter.

Motion adopted with no opposition. The Interim Registrar would also upload the reports from various Committee Chairs and Interim Registrar to the website for everyone's information.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.