

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: August 2016 – O-200

2015 – 2016 Goals and Accomplishments Examinations Subcommittee *Updated 08/2016*

1. In conjunction with Subcommittee on Operations and Management, review reports on administration of the California First-Year Law Students' Examination.

Reports were reviewed as scheduled.

2. Edit and approve final versions of the essay questions and select performance test questions for administration on California Bar Examinations.

Questions were reviewed and approved as scheduled.

3. Provide training from psychometrician on examination scaling, validity, reliability and fairness.

During its January 2016 meeting, the Committee met with its psychometric consultant, Dr. Roger Bolus, to discuss planning for the implementation of the modified California Bar Examination and the impact of various recommendations on the overall passing percentages or any particular group of applicants taking the examination; Dr. Bolus also discussed issues pertaining to the length of time it takes to grade the California Bar Examination and whether the time can be shortened.

4. Consider making a decision regarding the weighting of the various components of the Two-Day California Bar Examination.

During its January 2016 meeting, the Committee considered and moved that, effective with the administration of the modified California Bar Examination in July 2017, the examination begin with a three-hour morning session during which three, one-hour essay questions be administered and a three and one-half hour afternoon session during which two, one-hour essay questions and one 90-minute Performance Test be administered; that the Multistate Bar Examination portion be administered the following day; and that a Performance Test score be given twice the amount of weight as an essay question score.

5. Consider draft reports to the Supreme Court of California on February and July California Bar Examinations, which include analyses by psychometrician.

Reports on the examinations were reviewed; both were approved.

6. In conjunction with the Subcommittee on Operations and Management, review reports on administration of the California Bar Examination.

Reports were reviewed as scheduled.

7. Proposed Study to Explore Expanding Bar Examination Grader Groups.

During its March 2016 meeting, the Committee considered a proposed study prepared by its psychometrician, Dr. Roger Bolus, to investigate and explore the expansion of the number of graders of the California Bar Examination; the Committee decided to defer further consideration of the proposed study, pending receipt of additional information; additional information regarding the costs of the proposed study was received by the Committee at its April 2016 meeting; the Committee again decided to defer further consideration of the study until such time it appears to be feasible.

8. Consider making decision regarding changing the procedures for grading of the First-Year Law Students' Examination.

During its March 2016 meeting, the Committee reviewed the procedures for grading of the First-Year Law Students' Examination and decided not to make any changes with respect to those procedures at this time.

9. Review and consider proposed Admissions Rules guidelines for examinations, testing accommodations, and any other rules that fall within the purview of the Subcommittee on Examinations.

No action taken during this Committee year.

10. Continue to study examination grading process to determine whether bar examination results can be released earlier.

See Items #3 and #7.

11. Review bar examination process, including scope, format, grading and UBE, to determine whether changes to current process should be explored.

Ongoing

12. Consider conducting future psychometric studies to ensure the reliability, validity and fairness of examinations administered by the Committee of Bar Examiners.

Ongoing

13. Receive reports on progress of Uniform Bar Examination.

Ongoing

14. Receive updates on progress of preparations for administration of the Two-Day California Bar Examination.

Monthly, and see Items #3 and #4; at its April 2016 meeting, the Committee received and filed a report from staff on planning for the modified California Bar Examination.

15. Consider petitions seeking waivers of the Committee's examinations related policies, procedures and rules.

Monthly

16. Review appeals from applicants with disabilities who are appealing Senior Director, Admissions, decisions relative to their requests for testing accommodations.

Monthly