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## Complaint Screening Committee REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

June 15, 2022

*Held via Zoom*

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular session of the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners Complaint Screening Committee was called to order by Chairman Dynar at 8:39 a.m. on June 15, 2022. One executive session was held.

### 2. ROLL CALL

#### Committee Members Present

Aditya Dynar, Esq. – Chair  
Diana Davis-Wilson, DBH, BCBA  
Ramona N. Mellott, Ph.D. (*left at 10:12 a.m.*)  
Joseph Stewart, Ed.D. (*joined at 10:12 a.m.*)

#### Attorney General's Office

Jeanne Galvin, Assistant Attorney General

#### Staff Present

Heidi Herbst Paakkonen, Executive Director  
Jennifer Michaelson, Deputy Director

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 18, 2022 Regular and Executive Session Minutes

Mr. Dynar recused from this item. Dr. Mellott made a motion, seconded by Dr. Davis-Wilson, to approve the regular and executive session minutes as drafted. The motion carried unanimously (2-0), by a voice vote.

### 4. CASE DISCUSSION/DECISION

#### a. Elisabetta Ambrosia, Psy.D., Complaint No. 22-25

Dr. Mellott summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee. Dr. Ambrosia and her attorney, Faren Akins, participated, made a statement and answered questions from the Committee.

*At 9:50 a.m., Dr. Davis-Wilson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to go into Executive Session to receive confidential legal advice. Open session reconvened at 10:00 a.m.*

The Committee expressed concern with the frequency and nature of Dr. Ambrosia's contact with the Complainant during the time that she was his professor at Golden Gate University. The Committee noted that the Complainant participated in several of Dr. Ambrosia's virtual classes between 2020 - 2021 and that the parties exchanged many calls and text messages throughout that time, according to the documentation supplied by the Complainant. The cellphone call logs provided by the Complainant reflect numerous calls with Dr. Ambrosia, at various hours of the day and night. The Committee found that it appeared that boundaries were crossed with the Complainant, and that the communications go beyond what would be expected to place between a student and professor. Furthermore, the level of interaction between this professor and student is not typical. For example, in reviewing the text screenshots, some of the conversations appear to be of a personal nature and not related to the Complainant's coursework, which give the appearance that these conversations are between friends, not a professor and student. Dr. Ambrosia did not consult with the department chair or other university staff regarding the appropriateness of such communications with the Complainant or how to handle the increasing frequency of calls and texts. These communications could give the perception that Dr. Ambrosia demonstrated favoritism towards one student. The Committee also expressed concern that Dr. Ambrosia discussed other students during some of the text exchanges with the Complainant and questioned whether the confidentiality of other students' performance was protected.

Mr. Dynar made a motion, seconded by Dr. Davis-Wilson, to forward Complaint No. 22-25 to the Board for further review regarding possible violations of A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(b), betraying professional confidences; and A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(dd), violating an ethical standard adopted by the Board as it pertains to sections 3.04 (Avoiding Harm) and 3.05 (Multiple Relationships) of the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

*Dr. Mellott left the meeting at 10:12 a.m. due to her recusal from agenda item 4b. Dr. Stewart joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m. for the review of agenda item 4b.*

*The Committee took a comfort break at 10:12 a.m. and resumed at 10:18 a.m.*

**b. Paul Beljan, Psy.D., Complaint No. 22-29**

Dr. Davis-Wilson summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant participated and made a statement. Dr. Beljan and his attorney, Faren Akins, participated, made a statement and answered questions from the Committee. After deliberation, Dr. Davis-Wilson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Stewart, to dismiss this matter, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

**5. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Dynar made a motion, seconded by Dr. Davis-Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried (3-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.