



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM O-100

DECEMBER 2020

DIFFERENTIAL ITEM FUNCTIONING ANALYSIS WORKING GROUP

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

THE DIFFERENTIAL ITEM FUNCTIONING ANALYSIS WORKING GROUP OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

December 18, 2020

Zoom Meeting
State Bar of California Offices

A Zoom meeting of the Differential Item Functioning Analysis Working Group of The State Bar of California was convened in open session at 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 18, 2020, Bethany Peak, Pro Temp Chair, presiding.

Members present were James A. Bolton, Ph.D, Committee of Bar Examiners, Alex Chan, Committee of Bar Examiners, Heather Anderson, Council on Access and Fairness, Michael Iseri, Committee of Bar Examiners, Bethany Peak, Committee of Bar Examiners, Sal Torres, Council on Access and Fairness

Staff Present: Amy Nunez, Program Director III, Admissions, Lisa Cummins, Program Manager III, Admissions, Caroline Holmes, Assistant General Counsel, Doan Nguyen, Program Supervisor, Council on Access and Fairness, Elizabeth Hom, Program Supervisor, Council on Access and Fairness, Ronald Pi, Principal Program Analyst, Mission Advancement and Accountability, Heidi Schwab- Wilhelmi, Program Specialist, Admissions

Staff Absent: Audrey Ching, Program Director I, Admissions

Pro temp Chair, Bethany Peak, called the meeting to order. Roll was called.

There was no public comment.

- I. Ron Pi presented, "Differential Item Functioning (DIF) Analysis Report Summary of Findings"

- II. Group decided to meet again during the second week of February, 2021.
- III. At that meeting, the group will examine 10-15 questions that are flagged for DIF. This sampling will include essays and performance tests. Lisa Cummins and Ron Pi will decide which questions to review. It was suggested that questions with the greatest percentage of DIF be provided. The questions will be in an electronic format. By that time, hopefully, an expert can be retained. That expert will guide the group in its analysis of the questions. For example, how does one make a connection between the question, the DIF statistic and the examinee answer.

Concerns were raised about the manner in which applicants answer questions. Does DIF affect the manner in which applicants answer the questions, or are there other factors in play?
- IV. A subsequent meeting may focus on the examination development and grading process. A question was raised regarding the diversity of the graders. COAF said that it provided statistics about the grader demographics at some point. COAF would like to see more grader diversity.
- V. The committee coordinator will reach out regarding a future date for the second meeting, and will confirm which COAF and CBE member wish to serve as Co-Chairs.

Meeting Convened at 1:00PM