

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 26, 2010**

- TIME AND PLACE:** The Board of Optometry's (Board) Professional Designation Committee (PDC) meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Training Room 2, Henrico, Virginia.
- CHAIRMAN:** W. Ernest Schlabach, Jr., O.D., Chair
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jonathan R. Noble, O.D.
David H. Hettler, O.D., Ex-officio
- STAFF PRESENT:** Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director
Eric Gregory, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Regulatory Analyst
Carol Stamey, Operations Manager
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Thomas R. Cheezum, O.D., American Optometric Society
Betty Graumlich, National Association of Optometrists and Opticians
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** Thomas R. Cheezum, O.D., representing the Virginia Optometric Association (VOA), expressed concerns regarding the proposed elimination of the professional designation regulations. Dr. Cheezum provided written comment which are incorporated into the minutes as Attachment 1.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Dr. Noble moved to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2009, PDC meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.
- DISCUSSION ITEMS:** **Draft Regulatory Language Relative to Professional Designations**
Dr. Schlabach requested that Mr. Gregory research the issues listed below and present his findings at the next meeting of the PDC.
- 1) Regulations in and lawsuits against Pennsylvania pertaining to professional designation titles.
 - 2) Research what other states are doing with regard to professional designations.
 - 3) Provide a written opinion regarding the difference between commercial and free speech.

4) Research the definition of “false or misleading.”

Dr. Schlabach also requested that Board staff research the costs associated with conducting investigations related to professional designation complaints.

Dr. Noble moved that he and Dr. Schlabach further review the proposed regulations and independently draft recommendations for presentation at the next scheduled meeting of the professional designation committee.

Professional Designation Titles Currently Being Used

The professional designation committee reviewed the current listing of registered titles. It was determined that the current format of the computer generated report did not include the entire professional designation as registered. Ms. Stamey was requested to provide a reformatted listing that contains the complete names as registered as well as the name of the registering optometrist.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

W. Ernest Schlabach, O.D., Chair

Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director