



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
September 17, 2014
APPROVED**

Attendance:

Dr. Dennis Ruskin, President	Dr. Thomas Noël, Vice President
Mr. Francis Christopher	Dr. Pooya Hemami, Treasurer
Mr. John Van Bastelaar	Dr. Bill Chisholm
Mr. Ira Teich	Dr. Derek MacDonald
Ms. Luisa Morrone	Dr. Patrick Quaid
Mr. Emad Hussain	Dr. Marlee Spafford
Dr. Areef Nurani	Dr. Dino Mastronardi
Dr. Richard Kniaziew	Mr. John Costen

Regrets: Ms. Irene Moore

Staff: Dr. Paula Garshowitz, Registrar	Dr. David Wilkinson
Ms. Hanan Jibry	Ms. Mina Kavanagh
Mr. David Whitton	

1. Call to Order: Dr. Ruskin called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Ruskin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

a. Conflicts of Interest: Dr. Ruskin asked Council members if anyone had a conflict of interest with any item on the day's agenda; there were no conflicts of interest declared.

2. Adoption of the Agenda: A draft agenda was circulated before the meeting. Council was informed that Council would go in camera under section 7(2) (e) of the HPPC.

Moved by Mr. Christopher and seconded by Dr. Noël **to adopt the agenda.**

Motion carried

Dr. Ruskin announced that there would be a reception held at the end of the meeting to thank Council members and staff for their work and to celebrate the evolution of the College.

41 Dr. Ruskin recognized the meeting as Dr. Richard Kniaziew's last on Council. He thanked Dr.
42 Kniaziew, on behalf of Council, for his nine years of service to the College, acknowledging both
43 his work on committees and as President of the College for four years.

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45 **3. Minutes of Prior Council Meetings**

46 **a. Approval of minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2014:** The minutes of the Council
47 meeting of June 6, 2014 were included in the briefing book.

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49 Moved by Dr. Chisholm and seconded by Mr. Van Bastelaar **to approve the minutes of the June**
50 **6, 2014 meeting.**

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Motion carried

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53 **b. Status of Action Items:** Dr. Ruskin asked if there was any information or queries
54 regarding the status of the action items as presented in the briefing book. There was a
55 question about line 254, whether Dr. Ruskin had received a response from Dr. Murphy.
56 Council was informed it will be sent a copy when one is received.

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58 **Action Item:** Staff will file the approved minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2014 and post them
59 on the College website.

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61 **IN CAMERA SESSION**

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63 Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Noël **to have Council go in camera.**

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Motion carried

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Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Mr. Christopher **to exit in camera session.**

Motion carried

4. Financial Matters/Treasurer’s Report: Dr. Hemami, College Treasurer, presented the report.

a. Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Report – to September 10, 2014:

Preliminary financial results through September 10, 2014 reflect an operating surplus. This surplus excludes payments toward the three exceptional investments (Construction and Leaseholds, Database/IS development, and Evaluating Exam). Revenue to date is in line with projections, but operating expenditures are trending well below.

b. Revised 2014 Budget: Given trends year-to-date, it is prudent to update projections for the 2014 fiscal year, with a revised budget. This budget reduces expenses for several committees, revises forecasts for certain administrative cost items, and anticipates a net surplus of approximately \$77,000, excluding exceptional investments.

c. Preliminary 2015 Budget: A preliminary budget was presented to Council. This budget forecasts an operating loss of over \$129,000, but a net deficit of under \$55,000 after including investment income. Membership fees will remain unchanged. A reserve fund of \$250,000 has been established for anticipated legal and related expenses.

Moved by Dr. Hemami and seconded by Ms. Morrone **to move \$250,000 of unappropriated surplus into a reserve fund for legal expenses regarding unauthorized practice.**

Motion carried

Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Nurani **to approve the revised budget for 2014 and preliminary budget for 2015.**

Motion carried

d. Investment Portfolio: The College’s investment portfolio assets remain highly weighted toward fixed income instruments, followed by a more modest allocation to common equity securities. The investment portfolio delivered an estimated net return of 5.6% the first seven months of 2014. The Executive Committee has decided to transfer the College’s investment portfolio to a Toronto-based independent institutional investment advisory. This transfer should be completed by the end of September 2014.

5. Registrar’s Report: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Dr. Garshowitz updated Council on College operations, including the status of the College database system and upcoming staff presentations for regulators and other stakeholders. Staff is working with ARBO to roll out the OE Tracker system to College members in time for the new CE cycle, which begins on January 1, 2015. A call for nominations for the upcoming Council year was distributed to all eligible members on August 30, 2014. Nominations will close on September 30, 2014.

128 **6. Committee Reports**

129 **a. Executive:** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Dr. Ruskin updated
130 Council about presentations the College has been giving to local optometric meetings
131 regarding the new Professional Misconduct Regulation. The College will convene a town
132 hall meeting on Friday, November 7, 2014 at the Vision Institute Fall Conference and
133 Trade Show in Markham, Ontario.

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135 Council learned that Dr. Noël and Dr. Garshowitz represented the College at the June
136 ARBO meeting in Philadelphia, at which they proposed a resolution to look further into
137 Internet dispensing.

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139 Dr. Ruskin spoke about the September FORAC (formerly CORA) meeting held in St.
140 John's Newfoundland. Attendees discussed the evaluating examination that will replace
141 the PLA currently in place with CEO-ECO and IOBP. Canadian regulators will be invited to
142 observe the pilot of the new exam in November. FORAC has incorporated; its draft by-
143 laws were reviewed at the St. John's meeting, and will be given to Council for further
144 consideration. After all input has been gathered and assessed, the by-laws will be
145 revised and discussed at an upcoming teleconference.

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147 **b. Patient Relations:** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Ms. Morrone
148 updated Council, indicating that the committee has held one teleconference since the
149 last Council meeting. At its June meeting, Council approved in principle a proposed
150 regulation that would allow optometrists to treat their spouses. The regulation and
151 guidelines were circulated to members for 60 days, after which period all comments
152 were reviewed. Of the 30 comments received, 28 were in support of the regulation and
153 two opposed.

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155 Moved by Ms. Morrone and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew **to approve the regulation to allow**
156 **optometrists to treat their spouses for submission to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term**
157 **Care.**

158 **Motion carried**

159 All councilors voted in favour of the motion

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161 **c. Quality Assurance Panel:** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Dr. Quaid
162 gave a brief update indicating that the committee has met once since the last Council
163 meeting.

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165 Moved by Dr. Quaid and seconded by Dr. Nurani **to approve the CE policy for the upcoming**
166 **2015–2017 cycle.**

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168 Council discussed how the credit hour system is structured in the proposed CE policy,
169 and considered if limits should be placed on number of hours for publications and other
170 equivalencies that can be claimed as equivalent to Category A. In the end it was

171 suggested that the motion be tabled and reconsidered at the next Council meeting in
172 order to give QA an opportunity to revise the policy.

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174 **Motion tabled to the next meeting**

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176 Dr. Quaid then presented the draft QA regulation. The amendments to this regulation
177 allow for more flexibility in the definition and process of practice assessments, and
178 make the regulation consistent with the Registration Regulation and the RHPA.

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180 Moved by Dr. Quaid and seconded by Mr. Christopher **to approve the draft QA regulation for**
181 **circulation to members and stakeholders for comment.**

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183 If approved, once comments are received, QA will review them and report to Council.

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185 **Motion carried**

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187 In July, the College circulated to members and stakeholders a proposed change to the
188 Schedule of Fees that would include a fee for an SRA by the QA Committee for members
189 who are deficient in continuing education hours. The Committee considered the
190 feedback from this circulation and agreed to propose to Council that it accept the
191 recommendation to amend the schedule.

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193 Moved by Dr. Quaid and seconded by Dr. Hemami **to approve the amended fee schedule in the**
194 **College by-laws.**

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Motion carried

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197 The new fees will be applied to practice assessments required for members identified as
198 deficient in CE hours during the current CE cycle, ending December 31, 2014.

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200 **d. Clinical Practice Panel:** A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Dr.
201 MacDonald apprised Council of the committee's recent activities. Several OPR
202 documents were revised; there was discussion whether to include a glossary of terms in
203 the OPR, to allow for better comprehension by the public. The Committee provided
204 suggestions to draft EHCO guidelines for the collaborative management of persons with
205 AMD. It also considered benefits and risks to the public in recognizing specialism in
206 Optometry. The Committee discussed updating the current Designated Drugs Regulation
207 to include categories of drugs and to propose removing a two-week restriction on
208 prescriptions for oral antibiotics.

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210 Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Quaid **to approve revisions to OPR documents**
211 **OPR 2, 4.1, 4.5, 5.2, 6.4, and 6.5.**

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213 After review, Council questioned some requirements in OPR 4.1. It was agreed that CPP
214 would be asked to revisit this document.

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Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Dr. Quaid **to amend the motion to remove OPR 4.1.**
Amendment to the motion carried

Moved by Dr. MacDonald and seconded by Dr. Nurani **to approve revisions to OPR documents**
OPR 2, 4.5, 5.2, 6.4, and 6.5.
Amended motion carried

Moved by Dr. MacDonald and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew **to develop proposed amendments to**
the drug schedule, specifically drug categories.

Dr. Ruskin informed Council that Alberta had recently received approval for optometrists to be
authorized to prescribe all Schedule 1A drugs within the scope of practice of optometry.
Saskatchewan is poised to receive similar authority.

Moved by Dr. Ruskin and seconded by Dr. Hemami **to amend the motion to add the following**
“and/or all Schedule 1 drugs”.
Amendment to the motion carried

Moved by Dr. MacDonald and seconded by Dr. Kniaziew **to develop proposed amendments to**
the drug schedule, specifically drug categories and/or all Schedule 1 drugs.
Amended motion carried

e. Inquiries Complaints and Reports: A report was circulated prior to the meeting.
Dr. Chisholm informed Council that the Committee had met several times this year. The
budget has gone up in 2014 and 2015 to allow for extra meetings regarding the
transparency initiative.

f. Registration: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Dr. Kniaziew informed
Council that staff has transferred all incomplete credential assessment files for
international applicants to FORAC. CEHPEA is on schedule in developing the new
evaluating exam; the first exam is expected to be administered in 2015. The Registration
Committee is continuing its work with the OFC.

Council discussed the 2013-14 membership contribution request from CEO-ECO and
whether it should be conditional upon two factors: that it won't administer the PLA past
February 2015 and that it shares its competency profiles with the College.

Moved by Dr. Noël and seconded by Mr. Van Bastelaar **that Council approve funding to CEO for**
2013 -2014 with the caveat that CEO share the competency profile with the college within 18
months and that there will be no PLA administration held past Feb. 2015.

258 Councillors proposed to amend the motion to approve the member contribution and the
259 conditions as two separate motions.

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261 Moved by Dr. Spafford and seconded by Mr. Christopher **to amend the motion by splitting it**
262 **into 2 parts;**

263 **1. providing the member contribution**

264 **2. providing the conditions**

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Amendment to the motion opposed

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Original motion carried

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269 **g. Fitness to Practise:** This committee had not met since the last Council meeting
270 and had no activity to report.

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272 **h. Discipline:** There have been no hearings or decisions to report. Dr. Garshowitz
273 told Council that staff has attended training sessions.

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275 **i. Optometry Review:** This Committee had not met since the last Council meeting.
276 The Public Appointments Secretariat is in the process of replacing two professional
277 members and one public.

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279 **j. Communications:** This Committee had not met since the last Council meeting
280 and had no activity to report. Recognition pins have been sent to all members with the
281 2013 annual report.

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283 **7. Other Reports**

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285 **a. University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science:** A report by Dr. Paul
286 Murphy, Director, was included in the briefing book. Council had questions about the
287 jurisprudence curriculum of the IOBP and OD program based on anecdotal reports.

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289 **b. EHCO:** Dr. Noël informed Council that EHCO had not met since the last meeting. EHCO
290 has become aware of a clinic in Brampton advertising an acupuncture treatment for
291 glaucoma.

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293 **8. Request for Council Approval under O.Reg. 119/94 Part 1 Paragraph 20:** Council has
294 been asked to consider the issue of additional optometric qualifications internationally
295 educated optometrists can use in their practice. The current regulation allows for no other
296 designation than an OD degree, without Council approval, although certain other countries
297 confer other qualifications. Dr. Ruskin directed the issue for review by the Registration
298 Committee for a motion at the January Council meeting.

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300 **Action Item:** The matter of additional designations members may use in their practice will be
301 directed to the Registration Committee.

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303 **9. Transparency Project:** A briefing note was circulated prior to the meeting. Dr.
304 Garshowitz updated Council on recent progress with the AGRE initiative. In July AGRE decision-
305 makers held a workshop designed to increase understanding and build consensus regarding
306 transparency. By-law revisions to Phase 1 recommendations have been made and can be
307 circulated to members. Phase 2 recommendations will be discussed at an upcoming ICRC
308 meeting; the Committee will then report to Council at the January meeting.

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310 Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Mr. Christopher **to approve circulation of the Phase 1**
311 **by-law recommendations.**

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Motion carried

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314 **10. Dates of upcoming Council meetings:** The next Council meeting has been scheduled for
315 Friday, January 16, 2015. The following meetings are set for Wednesday, April 8, 2015 and
316 Thursday, June 18, 2015.

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318 **11. Adjournment:** Moved by Dr. Kniaziew and seconded by Mr. Hussain **to adjourn the**
319 **meeting at 4:00 p.m.**

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Motion carried