

N.D. Administrative Rules Committee

Comments from Harold Wilde, NDSBA Chair
Presented June 11, 2008-06-06

Mr. Chairman; Legislators.

I am Harold Wilde, the chairman of the Board of Accountancy.

In my work capacity, I am a faculty member in the UND Department of Accounting and also serve as its Chair.

At your March meeting, we appeared and discussed our proposed rule changes in accounting regulation. The proposals included

- some refining of the accounting concentration expected of candidates,
- various fee changes, such as allowing more time before a late fee is required, a lowering of all firm permit fees, and adjustment in the board member stipend,
- enacting a national ethical code, in lieu of existing state provisions
- broadening the practice review process, for CPA and LPA firms only, to cover firms providing compilation services

There were concerns and questions that arose in that meeting, about peer review, the board stipend, and the education concentration. Our Board met shortly after the meeting, and agreed to propose a change in our proposal concerning the board stipend. We had proposed to increase the daily rate and the annual cap. We would be amenable to instead keeping the daily rate as is, with no change. We would propose to retain the higher annual cap that we had proposed (\$2000, instead of \$1200).

As for the proposed educational change, I believe it is modest. It asks our CPA candidates to not count Principles of Accounting within the concentration tally. We also proposed to allow up to 3 credits of Economics within the concentration. There is no overall change in the total number of credits a student needs to take, just an adjustment in the actual content of the concentration. We actually allow great latitude within the educational coursework that is allowable. The majority of state schools that grant accounting degrees already expect more business and accounting credits (after Principles) than we are proposing.

Mr. Chairman, I am willing to try and field any questions you or the Committee may have.