

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, May 17, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W130 House Building

Members Present:

Rep. Douglas G. Aagard, House Chair
Sen. Brent H. Goodfellow
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. Mark W. Walker
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Sen. Parley Hellewell, Senate Chair
Sen. Dan R. Eastman
Rep. Craig W. Buttars
Rep. Patrick L. Painter

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Eric N. Weeks, Associate General Counsel
Ms. A. Brooke Ollerton, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Aagard called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. He excused Sen. Hellewell from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Bowman moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2006 committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Update on Construction Projects and Master Plan for State Office Space Needs -- DFCM (Division of Facilities Construction and Management)

Ms. D'Arcy Dixon Pigananelli, Executive Director, DAS (Department of Administrative Services), introduced several new division heads: Mr. Dave Johnson, Director of Debt Collection; Mr. Roger Livingston, Director of Risk Management; and Ms. Margaret Chambers, Director of Fleet and Surplus Services. She also introduced Mr. Keith Stepan, Director, DFCM, who gave the DFCM report.

Mr. Stepan, reviewed the "DAS/DFCM Report," which was distributed to committee members. He described the request and prioritization process for building projects included in the five-year master plan. He presented information from the report on capital development appropriations and the status of various projects from the 2004–2006 General Sessions. He responded to questions from the Committee about phase funding, bonding, and project prioritization.

Mr. Kent Beers, Capital Planning, Budget, and Government Affairs, DFCM, reviewed the capital improvement section of the "DAS/DFCM Report," outlining funding and describing the status of those projects. He also reported on statewide master planning efforts for 2006. He answered committee questions about building capacity, funding levels, and the status of certain buildings.

Chair Aagard announced the capitol reconstruction tour for Government Operations Committee members on June 21, 2006. A flier, "Capitol Tour," was distributed and a sign up-sheet circulated.

3. Signature Verification Standards for Referenda (Draft Legislation)

Mr. Weeks referred the Committee to draft legislation, "Referendum - Signature Verification Procedures," (2007 GS). He explained that during the 2005 General Session, the Legislature passed standards for signature verification on initiatives, but a uniform standard does not exist for referenda. He stated that county clerks had reviewed the standards and asked the Committee to extend the same standards to referenda.

Chair Aagard announced that the committee would vote on the bill later in the interim period to give everyone a chance to review it.

4. Government Operations Agency Overview

Mr. John Reidhead, Director, Division (Division of Finance), distributed "Department of Administrative Services, Division of Finance." He explained the Division's structure and duties as the central accounting office of the state, distributing payroll checks, transferring appropriations, and providing legislative groups with information. He described two current challenges the Division faces: upgrading its central accounting system, which will be complete in July 2006, and losing employees at a 20 percent turnover rate. He answered questions from the Committee.

Sen. Hillyard asked Mr. Reidhead to identify three areas of the law in which clarification, creation, or repeal would benefit the Division and to report back to staff by the next meeting.

Mr. Ray A. Hintze, Chief Deputy, Office of the Attorney General, distributed an organizational chart, "State of Utah, Office of the Attorney General"; "The Utah Attorney General's Office, Employees by Division"; and "Utah Office of the Attorney General, Performance Measurement." He described the organization of the Office and each division's duties, citing statistics that showed each division's workload and success. He stated that one of the attorney general's priorities was to increase attorney compensation and described how the office lost ten percent of its attorneys last year because it could not compete with other agencies' salaries, including counties and municipalities. He answered questions of the Committee.

Sen. Hillyard asked Mr. Hintze for three recommendations for laws that could be clarified, repealed, or enacted to make the Office of the Attorney General more efficient and to report back to staff by the next meeting.

5. Access to Key Election Dates and Election Law Technical Amendments

Mr. Christensen distributed "Utah Election Dates, 2006, General Election Candidate" and "Utah Election Dates, 2006, General Election Voter Registration." He explained that the Office of Legislative Research

and General Counsel had organized a list of dates in the election code for candidates, voters, and those dealing with campaign finance. He showed the Committee how to access the list through the Legislature's homepage. He informed the Committee that during the process of compiling the list, staff found some problems with the election code, which staff could update and bring back to the Committee.

Mr. Weeks pointed out that the Committee usually does an Election Code clean-up bill. He said the changes could be included in a committee clean-up bill if authorized by the Committee. The bill could be brought back for a future meeting.

Chair Aagard asked if there were any objections. None were stated. He directed staff to go ahead with the Election Code clean up.

Rep. Barrus suggested staff make language in the list clear that campaign finance reporting is only required in contested races.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Donnelson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard absent for the vote.

Chair Aagard adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.