

**MINUTES OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**

May 18, 2011 – 7:45 a.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart, Chair
President Michael G. Waddoups, Vice Chair
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Karen W. Morgan
Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig

Staff Present:

Mr. Bryant R. Howe, Assistant Director
Mr. Eric N. Weeks, Deputy General Counsel
Ms. Phalin L. Flowers, Administrative Assistant

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

1. Subcommittee Business

Chair Lockhart called the meeting to order at 7:51 a.m.

MOTION: Pres. Waddoups moved to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

2. Annual Performance Review

Mr. Michael Christensen, Director, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel (OLRGC), gave an overview of OLRGC throughout the past year. He discussed the number of bill requests and overtime hours earned during the 2011 General Session. He also reviewed how OLRGC plans to handle its interim and redistricting assignments. Mr. Christensen also noted that OLRGC is starting to work on a human resource policy manual in cooperation with other legislative staff offices. He then answered committee members' questions.

Rep. Dee recommended that Mr. Christensen look at using temporary attorneys and other staff to help ease OLRGC's workload during session.

Mr. John Fellows, General Counsel, OLRGC, explained that the main duties of the General Counsel and attorneys of OLRGC are bill drafting; litigation; legal analyses, research, and advice; compliance; explaining legal concepts to legislators; and staffing committees. He also gave examples of each duty and answered committee members' questions.

Mr. Jonathan Ball, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA), explained several of LFA's accomplishments this year. Those accomplishments include helping to balance the budget; finding ways to reduce the structural deficit; putting together a list of options to reduce budgets; writing 16 base budget bills instead of one; assisting in the consolidation and realignment of appropriations subcommittees; redesigning fiscal notes to make them easier to read and understand; improving the accountability of federal funds; and completing a very thorough budget review of the Department of Human Services.

Mr. John Schaff, Legislative Auditor General, Office of the Legislative Auditor General (LAG), said that even though LAG is down three auditors, they were still able to reach their goal of releasing 23 audits

last year. He said that four large audits were requested late in the year, to be completed by the start of the 2011 General Session. The requested audits covered the Public Employees Health Program, the state parks system, Medicaid, and the Division of Child and Family Services. Mr. Schaff explained that all four audits were completed in record time and he gave a brief explanation of each audit result.

MOTION: Pres. Waddoups moved to continue employment of Mr. Michael Christensen, Mr. John Fellows, Mr. Jonathan Ball, and Mr. John Schaff and to express appreciation to their departments and staff members for the service they have provided to the Legislature. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dee absent for the vote.

3. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

4. Adjourn

MOTION: Pres. Waddoups moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dee absent for the vote.

Chair Lockhart adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.