

**MINUTES OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**

May 15, 2012 – 8:00 a.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Rep. David Litvack

Staff Present:

Mr. John Q. Cannon, Managing Policy Analyst
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

Vice Chair Lockhart called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m. Rep. Litvack was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Romero absent for the vote.

2. Annual Performance Review

a. Legislative Auditor

Mr. John Schaff, Legislative Auditor General, spoke to the subcommittee about the accomplishments of the Office of the Legislative Auditor General. He briefly discussed several audits his office has completed during the past year. He also explained that his office had a peer review audit, which is required every three years. He said the review was contracted through the National Conference of State Legislatures and he discussed the standards the audit uses to measure compliance. Mr. Schaff said his office is also reviewing the option to become a paperless office.

Sen. Morgan asked Mr. Schaff about follow-up on audits performed by his office. Mr. Schaff discussed the methodology used to follow-up on audit recommendations. He also mentioned the positive relationships between the three staff offices.

b. Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Mr. Jonathan Ball, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, distributed and discussed "LFA Performance Review." He discussed the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's mission and goals. He also talked about the objectives of his office, as listed in statute. Mr. Ball also gave an overview of his office's accomplishments for the past year and plans for the upcoming year. He also emphasized how well the three legislative staff offices work together.

Pres. Waddoups asked Mr. Ball about the possibility of his office going paperless. Mr. Ball replied that after a survey of legislators on their paper preferences, half said they would prefer to continue receiving hard copies of documents, and the other half would prefer electronic copies. He said his office will look into discontinuing hard copies for those legislators that prefer electronic copies.

Speaker Lockhart mentioned how efficient it is for her to access legislative documents electronically, and suggested having training for legislators on how to use it more effectively.

c. Legislative General Counsel

Mr. John Fellows, General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel (OLRGC), talked about his and his attorneys' roles in the bill drafting process. He also explained his duties as legal counsel to the Legislature. Mr. Fellows spoke about the success of the new rule on prioritizing bill requests. He also said OLRGC has put together an in-house Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA) working group to study ways to streamline GRAMA requests and distribute the workload it creates for the office.

Sen. Jenkins asked about OLRGC's teleworking policy. Mr. Fellows responded that OLRGC is able to attract and keep quality employees who might otherwise choose not to work for the office by offering part-time work and teleworking during the interim.

d. Director, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Mr. Michael Christensen, Director, OLRGC, expressed his thanks for his reappointment during the General Session. He gave an overview of the work the office did during the summer on the redistricting process, including the redistricting special session. He also discussed the amount of work the office produced during the 2012 General Session. Mr. Christensen gave an overview of committee and task force assignments for the 2012 interim, as well as upcoming projects for the year, including a working group to study ways to streamline the process for receiving and responding to GRAMA requests.

Pres. Waddoups expressed his desire to see the office move toward more paperless options, including consolidating monthly mailings. He offered thanks to Mr. Christensen for his efforts to meet deadlines from leadership and follow their direction when working to implement changes to the legislative audio recording system during the session. He said that effort did not go unnoticed. Pres. Waddoups also thanked the staff of OLRGC for their hard work and responsiveness during the General Session.

Staff distributed "Subcommittee on Oversight: Current Salary of the Three Staff Directors."

MOTION: Pres Waddoups moved that the three directors of the legislative staff offices receive a one percent salary increase. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

4. Adjourn

MOTION: Pres. Waddoups moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Lockhart adjourned the meeting at 9:14 a.m.