

**MINUTES OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**

Wednesday, October 25, 2000 - 3:30 p.m. - Room 305 State Capitol

Members Present:

Pres. Lyle W. Hillyard, Senate Chair
Speaker Martin R. Stephens, House Chair
Sen. Leonard M. Blackham
Sen. Scott N. Howell
Sen. Paula F. Julander
Rep. David M. Jones

Members Excused:

Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Kevin S. Garn

Staff Present:

Ms. M. Gay Taylor,
General Counsel
Ms. L. Kaye Clark,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. **Call to Order** - Chairman Hillyard called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.
2. **Approval of the May 23, 2000 Minutes**

MOTION: Sen. Julander moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2000 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Annual Budget Review of the Legislative Staff Offices**

Mr. Mark Bleazard, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, presented the FY 2002 budget requests for Legislative Printing, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, Tax Review Commission, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, and Constitutional Revision Commission. He reported a total budget request for the staff offices of \$9,272,500.

Mr. Bleazard responded to questions about Legislative Printing's charges and expenses. Chairman Hillyard suggested that Mr. Strong consider publishing the summary of legislation as an item to be sold to generate money to the cover printing costs. Mr. Strong noted that mailing costs for his office have decreased while Internet requests have substantially increased.

Chairman Hillyard asked about session budget needs during 2002, with the Winter Olympics being held during the time of the General Session. Mr. Bleazard stated that the budget for the House and Senate includes funding for a two day special session. He also noted the one-time reapportionment costs as a part of the Legislature's budget.

MOTION: Sen. Blackham moved to approve the proposed budget as the Subcommittee's recommendation for inclusion in the proposed state budget. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Special Considerations

a. Office of the Legislative Auditor General - Mr. Wayne Welsh reported a high turnover in the office due in part to low salaries, which he estimated are about 10% below market. He indicated his intention to increase salaries within his existing budget by using the carry forward monies of the office in order to bring those salaries up to market. He further stated this could be maintained using the current and proposed budgets.

b. Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst - Mr. John Massey reported that the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst has no special requests at this time. He noted that he is currently researching how the salaries in his office compare with other comparable jobs in government and the market.

c. Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel - Mr. Richard Strong distributed two handouts concerning salaries and information technology. He reported that the office has had 11 staff members leave in the past year, eight of which left mostly due to salary issues. He gave a presentation of the materials on attorney and analyst salary comparisons. He highlighted several of the responsibilities of analysts and the size of several states' legislative staffs, including Nevada which meets in session every other year. He also noted that Utah ranks 41st in staff size among the states.

Mr. Strong reviewed a list of itemized priority IT budget needs including server replacements and intern office computer replacements. He also reviewed the need to update the bill drafting system, the switching equipment, and the purchase of a scanner.

With regard to whether a severance package should be given to Mr. Strong, Ms. Taylor reviewed the minutes of the 1998 Legislative Management Committee meeting. The minutes indicated that Mr. Leo Memmott received compensation in addition to the 3.5% the other two staff directors received, which included a lump sum payment to his 401(k) of \$26,000. She explained that the payment was the highest amount that could be contributed tax free into a 401(k) by an employer and an employee in 1998. According to an October 2000 Utah State Retirement Office publication, that amount is currently \$30,000. Mr. Memmott also received a 2.75% increase because of longevity. Ms. Taylor noted Mr. Strong had also been on longevity as a director, so this issue would probably apply to him. Chairman Hillyard stated that he would have Mr. Massey, Ms. Karen Suzuki-Okabe, and Mr. Dee Williams review the issue as it pertains to Mr. Strong and make recommendations to the Subcommittee.

MOTION: Sen. Howell moved to have Mr. Massey, Ms. Karen Suzuki-Okabe, and Mr. Dee Williams review the issue of a severance package for Mr. Strong and make recommendations to the Subcommittee by November 14, 2000. The motion passed unanimously. Speaker Stephens was absent for the vote.

5. Other Business - None

6. Adjournment

MOTION: Sen. Howell moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

