

**MINUTES OF THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**

Tuesday, April 3, 2001 - 3:30 p.m. - Room 305 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Speaker Al Mansell, Senate Chair  
Speaker Martin R. Stephens, House Chair  
Sen. Ron Allen  
Rep. L. Steven Poulton  
Rep. Patrice M. Arent  
Rep. Ralph Becker  
Rep. Kevin S. Garn

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Mike Dmitrich

**Staff Present:**

Ms. M. Gay Taylor,  
General Counsel  
Ms. Beverlee LeCheminant,  
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** - Chair Stephens called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

**2. Approval of the October 25, 2000 Minutes**

**MOTION:** Sen. Mansell moved to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2000 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Poulton absent for the vote.

**3. Overview of Statutory Responsibility** - Ms. Gay Taylor, General Counsel, distributed copies of the Statutory Responsibilities of the Subcommittee on Oversight and indicated that those responsibilities are: 1) to provide an annual performance review for the legislative fiscal analyst, the director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, and the legislative auditor general before June 1st of each year; and 2) to review and approve the budget for each office no later than November 1st of each year.

Ms. Taylor distributed the draft Policy of Legislative Management Committee on Legislative Staff Directors, Chief Clerk, and Secretary of the Senate Pay Plan. She indicated that the pay plan was not approved in the March 27, 2001 Legislative Management Committee meeting, but the plan was being given to the Subcommittee for its review and consideration. She also distributed the larger report of executive compensation which highlights the employees who are an E5 and what that salary range is for that grade.

**4. Annual Performance Review of**

**a. Legislative Fiscal Analyst** - Mr. John Massey, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, indicated that his office has mailed a survey to the legislators pertaining to general service evaluations and subcommittee

meeting evaluations. He said that 30 percent of the legislators have responded to the survey to date and 94 percent of those returned have given his office satisfactory or higher marks in terms of how the analysts have dealt with their subcommittees. Seventy one percent of the surveys returned listed their general services and front desk in the very suitable category. He stated that he feels that his office was able to get the fiscal notes out sooner than it has done in the past. He pointed out that there are 24 people within his office, which includes the Office of Legislative Printing, and the office has a \$2.8 million budget. He indicated that things are going well in the office in terms of morale and unity and he feels good about the office's abilities to respond to both parties. He said that he feels good about the support the office has had from the Legislature.

Rep. Stephens indicated that he would like Mr. Massey to let the Senate President, himself, and the chairs of the executive appropriations committees know if there is going to be a delay in getting the main budget bills to the Legislature within the time prescribed by the Joint Rules. Then the President and Speaker can resolve the issues earlier to stay on schedule.

**b. Director, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel - Mr. Michael Christensen, Director, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel,** noted that over 1,000 bills were drafted during the session; there were no bills invalidated; and that he has a file of letters from legislators thanking staff for the work they did, along with several oral compliments and phone calls. He indicated that one new thing the office did this year was to hold a presentation at the beginning of the session on Utah's economics and demographics. The attorneys within the office, Gay Taylor and John Fellows, initiated the issue on the census litigation. Also, the office was helpful in providing legislators with options to look at regarding the 2002 General Session with the Olympics.

He stated that one of the challenges the office is facing now is some interim committee assignment changes. He noted that the office is also working on increased computer training.

**c. Legislative Auditor General - Mr. Wayne Welsh, Legislative Auditor General,** said his office provides objective and reliable information to the legislators regarding government programs and he feels that they have contributed in identifying options and coming to solutions regarding problems in these programs. Last year his office issued 11 formal reports and eight informal reports in the areas of textbooks, class size reduction, adoption subsidies, tourism promotion, Office of Child Care, and transfer of the Veterans' Cemetery. Another responsibility his office has is to develop a list of best management practices for state programs and that has been completed and given to the eight new programs that were established during the 2000 Legislative Session. He indicated that the next step in that process is to develop a survey to be completed by those agencies and then recommend to the Audit Subcommittee which new programs should be reviewed indepth to see if they have been able to comply with those best practices.

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One of the problems facing his office is turnover. The office has lost about a third of their staff in the last 12 months so their challenge now is to hire people to replace them and get them trained to the point where they can contribute fully on an audit report and add to the productivity efforts of those teams. Wayne noted that there are 21 auditors and three support staff in his office.

**MOTION:** Rep. Garn moved to go into a closed session at for the purpose of reviewing the salaries of the three legislative staff directors. The motion passed unanimously with Speaker Stephens absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Arent made a motion to reopen the meeting at 4:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Rep. Allen moved to increase the salaries of the three legislative staff directors for fiscal year 2001-02 as follows:

Director, Legislative Research and General Counsel - \$110,000 annually  
Legislative Auditor General - \$108,000 annually  
Legislative Fiscal Analyst - \$106,000 annually

The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Allen said the differences in salaries reflects the number of staff supervised, the time of service, and the salaries of the staff they lead.

**MOTION:** Sen. Mansell moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

