

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

September 11, 2001 – 3:00 p.m. – Room 303 State Capitol

Members Present:

President Al Mansell, Chair
Speaker Martin R. Stephens, Vice-chair
Sen. Ron Allen
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. L. Steven Poulton
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. Greg J. Curtis
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Kevin S. Garn
Rep. David Ure

Staff Present:

Michael E. Christensen, Director
M. Gay Taylor, General Counsel
Beverlee LeCheminant, Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or contact the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order

Chair Mansell called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Dmitrich moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Poulton and Rep. Arent, Rep. Becker, Rep. Biskupski, Rep. Garn, and Rep. King were absent for the vote.

3. Use of Committee Rooms

Ms. Gay Taylor summarized the three substantive changes that are being proposed to the Committee Room Use Policy: 1) to allow certain legislative committee rooms to be made available for non legislative use on interim and session days during times when legislative committee meetings are not scheduled; 2) to eliminate the security deposit requirement and replace it with an inter-account billing code for executive or judicial branch use, or a credit card for any other person for damages sustained in their use of a legislative committee room; and 3) to provide an alternative to the 'no food or drink' policy with three options for the committee to decide among.

Ms. Taylor stated that the three options regarding the policy on food and drink are: 1) to expand the allowance of food or drink from legislators and legislative staff members to include meetings staffed by one of the legislative staff offices; 2) to allow drink containers with a lid or cap in committee rooms by anyone, except for rooms under governance of the Capitol Preservation Board, which by rule disallows all food and drink, and to allow food and drink for legislators or legislative staff as part of a legislative caucus or meetings staffed by one of the legislative staff offices; and 3) to allow food and drink in legislative

committee rooms with cleaning costs damages to be charged to the executive or judicial branch or private entity who has reserved the room.

MOTION: Speaker Stephens moved to approve the changes on pages 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Changes to Committee Room Use Policy. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. King was absent for the vote.

MOTION: Sen. Allen moved to approve Option #3 on page 6 regarding the policy on food and drink. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. King was absent for the vote.

4. Olympic Issues -

A. Use of State Capitol during the Olympics

Mr. Lane Beattie, State Olympic Coordinator, indicated that there is a need for additional security at the State Capitol before, during, and after the Olympic Games. This additional security would consist of magnetometers at the doors leading into the State Capitol and badges for employees and legislators. With regard to concealed weapons, he indicated that there is an appropriate time and place, even with magnetometers, for people who are so licensed to have weapons to have access to the State Capitol. However, there are federal requirements that would restrict access for concealed weapons or any weapon during the times when the President of the United States or other dignitaries are here. Mr. Beattie stated that there will be restricted parking around the perimeter of the State Capitol during those times for a buffer zone.

Mr. Beattie said that one of his concerns as far as calendaring with the legislature's schedule is February 7. A celebration called "Welcome to the World" will be held at the State Capitol on February 7 with a production staged in front of the State Capitol in which 10,000-30,000 people are expected to attend. This program will go from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. Later that evening there will be a celebration at the City-County Building where Mayor Anderson will have the opportunity to welcome the world to Salt Lake City as an entity. There are also two other celebrations that same evening. One will be put on by the LDS Church and will be held in the conference center; the other one will be a cultural arts activity that will be held at symphony hall. He noted that the torch will also be coming to Salt Lake City on the night of February 7.

Mr. Beattie said that many other events will be held at the State Capitol including displays and exhibits. These will need a great deal of coordination. One of these displays is one of the original signed copies of the Declaration of Independence, which will be at the State Capitol from February 1 to March 15. The majority of the time the document is at the State Capitol, the Legislature will be in session and there will need to be some careful correlation. Anna Waddoups will be in charge of the State Capitol programs during the Olympics. Legislators will be invited to read aloud the Declaration of Independence in front of the original copy. SLOC has invited 35,000 Utah fifth graders to come to the State Capitol. SLOC has also worked with members of the House and Senate in putting together a committee that will be bringing some memorabilia into the State Capitol that will be carried throughout Utah for many years to come. The Alf Engen Ski Museum will be bringing to the State Capitol a collection it has that will be later shown in the museum in Olympic Park. Special displays of skis dating back to the original ones that were given to Utah State University will also be on display, along with snowboards, which sport was invented in

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Utah. The University of Utah has a display of pictures that have been under its charge at the Marriott Library that will be made into an art show.

Mr. Beattie suggested that legislators avoid holding even public meetings with small groups at the State Capitol during the time the Legislature is not in session as parking will be a problem during that time.

Mr. Beattie noted that on October 1, 2001, tickets allocated to but not purchased by other countries participating in the Olympics will be available to the public for purchase. He encouraged legislators to get tickets in October if they have not already done so.

Mr. Beattie said that traffic continues to be a problem. He indicated that public service announcements will be made about transportation, encouraging businesses around Salt Lake City to consider split shifts, early arrivals, and the ability to work out of their homes.

Mr. Beattie stated that the President of the United States has been invited to Salt Lake City to speak on February 8, 2002 at the State Capitol, but SLOC has not yet had a confirmation from the President.

Sen. Allen suggested looking at security changes to the State Capitol that could be made permanent. Mr. Beattie said he would support that with the understanding that it would not mean a restriction of access to the building.

Sen. Mansell asked when the magnetometers would be installed in the State Capitol. Mr. Beattie said they would be installed at least two weeks prior to the Olympic Games and would be in the building through at least the end of the games.

B. Staff Scheduling - Mr. Michael Christensen asked that the directors of the three legislative offices be allowed to make adjustments to employee work schedules, including telecommuting, during the period immediately surrounding the Olympic Games.

MOTION: Speaker Stephens moved to allow legislative staff directors to make necessary adjustments in work schedules during the period immediately surrounding the Olympic Games. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. King was absent for the vote.

C. Reconsideration of Legislative Session Dates - Mr. Christensen distributed the 2002 Legislative General Session and Winter Olympics schedule. He stated that the Legislative Management Committee had previously voted to adjourn during the Olympic Games, but to hold appropriations subcommittee and interim committee meetings during the two weeks prior to the General Session. He stated that the Legislative Management Committee approved the week of January 7-11 for appropriations subcommittee meetings, and the week of January 14-18 for interim committee meetings. Mr. Christensen stated that the chairs of the Executive Appropriations Committee have requested that these two weeks be adjusted so that interim and appropriations subcommittee meetings be held - one in the morning and one in the afternoon of both weeks rather than have appropriation subcommittees meet the first week and interim committees meet the second week as currently scheduled. Mr. Christensen stated that a second change to the current schedule to be considered is that, as Mr. Beattie pointed out, February 7 and 8 will be two days the Legislature should consider adjourning because of the schedule of events in the State Capitol.

President Mansell also suggested that Legislative Management Committee should consider whether they should meet on Mondays and Fridays during the two weeks prior to the General Session. President Mansell noted there probably will need to be changes to the current schedule, but that he would prefer to wait until the November meeting to address those changes.

5. Triad Corporation

This item was not discussed.

6. Budget Issues

Mr. John Massey, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, suggested that the Commerce and Revenue Appropriations Subcommittee include the Utah College of Applied Technology budget within its review and the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee include the budget of the Medical Education Council within its review.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to have the Commerce and Revenue Appropriations Subcommittee include within its review the Utah College of Applied Technology budget and to have the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee review the budget of the Medical Education Council. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. King and Rep. Ure were absent for the vote.

7. Revenue and Tax Interim Committee Request for a Subcommittee to Study Telecommunication Taxes

Mr. Christensen noted that the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee is requesting permission to establish a subcommittee to study issues regarding taxation of the telecommunications industry.

Speaker Stephens said he is concerned with this request because interim committees end in 60 days and will be doing their final reports in the November meetings. He stated that this issue is very complicated and suggested that this might be a subject for a task force to study during the 2002 interim.

Sen. Mansell asked if there is any urgency to complete this study before the 2002 session. Sen. Allen said he believes the committee has one or two bills to consider that are very complicated and think a subcommittee could devote more time to this effort.

Mr. Christensen said that the letter states that the ULCT (Utah League of Cities and Towns) and the telecommunications industry have been meeting this summer to find ways to simplify the administration of local taxes and fees imposed on the industry and that the subcommittee would hear the report of ULCT's work.

Mr. Robin Riggs, representing Qwest, said that ULCT has been meeting with members of industry to come up with ways to clarify and simplify telecommunications tax policy in the state. However, they have not met for some time because there is further discussion among members of the industry, so the industry has deferred asking the interim committee to take action on this issue. Mr. Riggs said he is not

prepared to tell this committee whether or not a subcommittee or task force is the best way to go and is not sure whether the committee will have legislation ready for the 2002 session.

Sen. Garn said federal legislation has been passed regarding this issue and Utah has to conform its state statutes with federal legislation by August of next year. Mr. Riggs said this would only be one part of the comprehensive study and that part of the law could be changed and could be done through a simple change in the law without addressing the larger issue.

Sen. Allen suggested that an ad hoc committee be put together during the session to stay late and deal with it.

MOTION: Sen. Garn moved to approve the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee's request, but that Legislative Management Committee suggest that the committee chairs look at some of the other options that have been discussed at this meeting on how to address these issues. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Ure was absent for the vote.

8. Joint Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee Request for an October Meeting

Mr. Christensen stated that the Joint Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee has requested permission to hold a meeting on October 16 to discuss governor's budget hold backs; block granting issues; and teacher health insurance issues.

MOTION: Speaker Stephens moved to approve the Joint Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee's request. The motion passed unanimously.

Rep. Curtis indicated that he has received a request from the Executive Offices of Criminal Justice Committee to have one additional appropriation subcommittee meeting as the Department of Public Safety would like to make some presentations with regard to security issues that were not covered at their last two meetings.

Mr. William Greer, staff for the Executive Offices of Criminal Justice Committee, said his committee would like to discuss some of the issues relating to the safety concerns during the Olympics.

MOTION: Rep. Curtis moved to approve the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriation Subcommittee's request to hold an additional meeting. The motion failed. Voting in the negative were Sen. Dmitrich, Sen. Allen, Sen. Davis, and Rep. Arent and Rep. Garn.

9. Live Broadcasting of Legislative Sessions

Rep. Ralph Becker told the committee that one of his constituents suggested to him that with the advancements in Internet capability that it would cost very little to broadcast the session over the Internet. Rep. Becker indicated that Mark Allred, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, has done some research on what other states have done with regard to broadcasting the session over the Internet. He said that thirty-eight states currently publish audio coverage; 25 publish public floor debates only; and 13 publish committee room proceedings as well. The committee discussed three options with regard to

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this issue: 1) produce the Internet broadcast using legislative staff and equipment; 2) stream the broadcast to the state ITS (Information Technology Services) and allow them to publish it on the network; and 3) grant rights to commercial websites to broadcast to the Internet. Rep. Becker said that of the three options, the first option would be the most cost-effective and would give the Legislature the most control over how the broadcasting occurs.

Speaker Stephens noted that state agency employees who attend the legislative meetings could take advantage of listening to them on the Internet rather than having to come to the State Capitol. This would save a lot of productive time for state employees.

President Mansell indicated that under Option 2, ITS would charge the Legislature for this service on an ongoing cost, on a cost recovery basis, with no actual dollar figure identified.

Sen. Davis indicated that rural schools could also tap into it.

Rep. Becker asked that the committee consider these options and requested that this item be placed on the Legislative Management Committee agenda for a decision at a future meeting.

10. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: Rep. Garn moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Mansell adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

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