

**MINUTES OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**
May 18, 2005 – 8:00 a.m. – W140 House Building

Members Present:

President John L. Valentine, Chair
Speaker Greg J. Curtis, Vice-Chair
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Brad King

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter Knudson
Rep. Jeff Alexander

Staff Present:

Ms. M. Gay Taylor, General Counsel

Note: A list of others present and a copy of related materials can be found at www.le.utah.gov or by contacting the committee secretary, Beverlee LeCheminant, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting is available from the committee secretary.

1. Committee Business

President Valentine called the meeting to order at 8:19 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Dmitrich moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2004 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Annual Performance Review of:

Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Mr. John Massey distributed a handout of his office's major activities since the last Subcommittee on Oversight Meeting.

He discussed the hiring of a fiscal analyst to oversee the capitol construction.

MOTION: Sen. Dmitrich moved that the salary of the director of the Office of Legislative Fiscal Analyst be increased by 2.5%. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Auditor General

Mr. Schaff distributed a handout that reviewed last year's audits and the current audits in process.

Mr. Schaff discussed his office's Best Practices Report which was given to nine new Executive Branch directors.

He talked about a change in their office structure from a secretary to an editor position and said his office is interviewing to fill three newly funded auditor positions.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved that the salary of the Legislative Auditor General be increased by 2.5%. The motion passed unanimously.

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Director, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Mr. Christensen gave an update of the results of the legislative survey of his office. He said while the survey showed high marks overall, his office has made significant improvements on two of the lower scores, which were: timeliness of first contact, and timeliness of bills.

He indicated that his office has hired a new policy analyst and a new attorney.

He stated that the office provided demographics publications by legislative districts that were given to the legislators. He said it allowed legislators to know their districts better.

He said the office is doing the final edit of the book "State and Local Government in Utah" for new legislators and the general citizenry. It will be published in August.

Mr. Christensen talked about the change in when constitutional notes are placed on bills from the existing low thresholds to a high threshold or high bar. The Speaker and President raised concerns about the high bar threshold and suggested legislators should have more confidence in the process as a way of sorting out constitutional issues.

MOTION: Rep. Becker moved that the salary of the director of Legislative Research and General Counsel be increased by 2.5%. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

President Valentine adjourned the meeting at 9:09 a.m.