



## OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

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### REVISED MINUTES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD  
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2014

#### **Call to Order:**

Chair Kathleen Trafford called the meeting of the Coordinating Committee to order at 3:49 p.m.

#### **Members Present:**

A quorum was present with Chair Trafford, Vice-chair Davidson, and committee members Abaray, Fischer, Obhof, and Sykes in attendance.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the March 13, 2014 committee meeting were reviewed and approved.

#### **Discussion:**

The first order of business was to discuss the minutes of the previous meeting pertaining to subject matter preservation; in particular, clarifying subject matter materials cannot be used for political purposes and whether or not subject matter hearings should be recorded for future reference. Senator Larry Obhof explained there were similar arguments for legislative committees and witnesses are always encouraged to submit written testimony copies for the record. Chair Trafford mentioned an outreach type of position would be helpful in collecting and compiling committee records, including testimony. Sen. Obhof mentioned a legislative staff member may be able to compile the data as well. Executive Director Steven C. Hollon stated the newly-hired administrative assistant will play a key role in all outreach, and that his office was currently contacting all the chairs, legal counsel, and other staff members responsible for the current recordkeeping to update and organize all collected information pertaining to the Commission's work.

The second order of business was to clarify minutes from the previous March 13, 2014 meeting. Sen. Obhof moved to amend the first sentence of the third paragraph to reflect that Chair Trafford discussed a conference call that took place between some chairs of the subject matter committees on February 21, 2014. Without objection, the motion was approved. Sen. Obhof

moved to amend the fourth sentence of paragraph four to reflect that Sen. Obhof expressed a preference for making such changes sooner, in an effort to simplify and update the current language. Without objection, the motion was approved. The minutes were approved as changed.

In the third order of business, committee member Patrick Fischer discussed reassigning Article V Section 9 from the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee to the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee. Judge Fischer explained that this section describes the specification of an appointment to an open seat and how it impacts the normal election cycle for General Assembly members. Judge Fischer explained it is more appropriate for this provision to be discussed within the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee.

Judge Fischer moved to transfer the discussion on clarifying sit out policies from the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee to the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee. Mr. Steinglass mentioned that Article II, Section 2 pertains directly to General Assembly members and that Article V, Section 9 also describes sit out policies for General Assembly and Congressional members. Ms. Davidson agreed, citing language in Article V, Section 9 that states “elected or appointed” and explained that Congressional members filling a remaining term must be elected, rather than appointed. She suggested the Coordinating Committee confer with the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee prior to assigning Article V, Section 9 to that committee. Sen. Obhof moved to withdraw the motion, and requested Chair Trafford reach out to Chair Fred Mills of the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee to discuss the appropriate subject matter committee assignment for term limit and sit out policies. Without objection, the motion was approved.

Judge Fischer asked whether the Commission has received any comments or proposals on the Commission's website. Mr. Hollon stated not many have been posted at this time. Judge Fischer asked whether the Commission should solicit the public for ideas and if someone is currently doing so. Mr. Hollon stated that someone from the Commission was not directly requesting citizens to submit comments and proposals but that they hope to do so in the future once a communications employee is put in place.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

**Approval:**

The minutes of the June 12, 2014 meeting of the Coordinating Committee were approved at the October 9, 2014 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Kathleen M. Trafford  
Kathleen M. Trafford, Chair

/s/ Jo Ann Davidson  
Jo Ann Davidson, Vice-chair