



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2013

Call to Order:

Chair Doug Cole, appointed to replace Richard Walinski, called the meeting of the Organization and Administration Committee to order at 12:34 p.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Chair Cole and committee members Batchelder, Cafaro, Clyde, and Kurfess in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the July 10, 2013 meeting of the committee were reviewed and approved.

Discussion:

Chair Cole opened the meeting by explaining that Richard Walinski resigned as Chair of the Organization and Administration Committee but will remain on the committee as a public member, and that Chair Cole was appointed to replace him as chair. Chair Cole also announced that Vice-chair Joseph Rugola resigned from the Commission, leaving a vacancy on the committee. Chair Cole stated that Representative Bill Batchelder was appointed to the committee to fill that vacancy.

Chair Cole asked the committee to review minutes from the July 10, 2013 meeting. Representative Kathleen Clyde noted the omission of the committee's discussion on whether travel expenses of legislative members should be allotted within the Commission budget. Agreeing with Rep. Clyde, Chair Cole noted omission of the discussion surrounding the travel expenses of legislative members within the budget and asked for approval of the minutes from the July 10, 2013 meeting with changes reflecting that discussion. Without further discussion the minutes were approved as corrected.

Chair Cole requested Rep. Clyde to share her findings with regard to legislative members' travel expenses within the Commission budget. Rep. Clyde said that the budgetary line item allocated for travel reimbursement of legislative members is not needed as the work of the Commission is "state work." Thus, she said, General Assembly members may seek reimbursement through House or Senate mileage requests.

Chair Cole led discussion on the hiring process, moving to adopt the guidelines for hiring staff. Rep. Clyde noted the composition of the hiring subcommittee of the Organization and Administration Committee was proposed to have three public members and two legislative members. She suggested that, to ensure a partisan balance and balance amongst public and legislative members, one public member should be removed from the committee. Chair Cole asked whether Mr. Walinski should be the removed public member due to his ongoing ailment. Committee member Charles Kurfess noted that bi-partisanship should not be a consideration with regard to the composition of the hiring subcommittee. Representative Bill Batchelder acknowledged the concerns of Rep. Clyde but questioned whether these concerns indicate a form of partisan favoritism of Republican applicants over Democratic applicants; adding that the party allegiance of public members, chiefly Mr. Walinski, is not unknown, at least by him. Chair Cole suggested including Commission Co-Chair Representative Vernon Sykes in the interview process, as well as in deciding the Commission staff. Mr. Kurfess noted that alteration of the subcommittee is in violation of Commission rules. Senator Capri Cafaro shared similar concerns with Mr. Kurfess, but acknowledged the concerns of Rep. Clyde.

Ms. Lizz Eisaman, House majority policy advisor, referred to Section 3.c.ii. within the newly-drafted interim rules of the Commission, stating "each Committee of the Commission may determine the number and composition of its subcommittees." Rep. Clyde moved to amend section 2.b.i. of the hiring process guidelines to reflect the removal of public member Mr. Walinski on the subcommittee; thereby leaving the composition of the subcommittee to two public members and two legislative members. Chair Cole moved to amend the composition of the subcommittee to reflect two public members and two legislative members. The motion to amend failed (3-2).

Rep. Clyde presented information relating to the posting of the executive director position. She said the job was posted on the Department of Administrative Services website on August 7, 2013 and the subcommittee will accept applicants for three weeks; thus providing ample time for Commission members to notify candidates they believe suited to apply and to allow the public to apply. Chair Cole asked why the designated duration of posting the position was set at twenty-one days. Rep. Clyde answered this was to allow a reasonable time to publicize the position, discouraging shortening the time period for this reason. Rep. Batchelder expressed support for the twenty-one-day timeframe.

Chair Cole asked about the process by which applicants' resumes are accepted. Ms. Eisaman stated applicants are able to submit their applications and resumes through the online posting, adding that, to date, five resumes have been submitted. Ms. Eisaman assured the committee that applicants' resumes, cover letters, and supplemental documents will be distributed on a weekly basis. Mr. Kurfess questioned whether the contract of the executive director position is extendable to the pleasure of the Commission, mentioning the duration of ten years for the

Commission to achieve significant progress. Ms. Eisaman, noted that under House Bill 59 in the 130th General Assembly, the sunset of the Commission is eight-and-one-half years. Mr. Kurfess remarked this timeframe must be shared within the interview process with applicants for the executive director and staff positions.

Chair Cole led discussion regarding the senior policy advisor position. Rep. Batchelder offered the appointment of Steve H. Steinglass as a worthwhile candidate for the senior policy advisor position, noting his Ohio Constitution proficiency and legislative knowledge. Rep. Batchelder asked the committee to present Mr. Steinglass' name to the Commission. Chair Cole moved to offer the Commission Mr. Steinglass' name as a committee recommendation for the senior policy advisor position. The motion was approved (4-0).

Chair Cole opened discussion regarding the budget draft. Chair Cole noted his concern with regard to the lack of allotment for overhead costs and expenses within the budget and requested that the committee review his newly-drafted version of the budget. The budgetary line item regarding legislative travel was brought up during the discussion. Ms. Eisaman noted that the legislative travel reimbursement is solely provided for travel to Columbus. Chair Cole added that travel to other cities can be permissible grounds for reimbursement for legislative members.

Rep. Clyde stated the Commission and its committees anticipate travel to varied locales statewide. Chair Cole noted the budgeted salary for the senior policy advisor position submitted by Mr. Walinski capped the salary at \$40,000 per quarter, while the version submitted by Chair Cole capped this position at \$25,000 per quarter. Mr. Kurfess asserted the drafts are estimates and are not ironclad; he moved the budget draft submitted by Chair Cole be adopted and presented to the full Commission during the September meeting, thus allowing for open discussion and amendments. The motion was approved (4-0).

Chair Cole led discussion regarding amendment to the interim rules of the Organization and Administration Committee and taking of minutes. Chair Cole recommended to the committee that the minutes be taken according to Robert's Rules of Order, noting concern over whether the committees should be televised or recorded by digital means. Rep. Batchelder added, in order to utilize services provided through the Ohio Channel, a resolution must be adopted and signatures are required from the president of the Senate and speaker of the House and related clerks.

Chair Cole held discussion regarding the available 24th floor office space in the Vern Riffe Building and moved to present that space to the Commission as the office location for the Commission. The motion was approved (4-0).

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the August 8, 2013 meeting of the Organization and Administration Committee were approved.

/s/ Douglas R. Cole

Douglas R. Cole, Chair

/s/ Paula Brooks

Paula Brooks, Vice-chair