

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee

February 16, 2024

Room EW20, Capitol, Boise, Idaho



Representative Cannon, presiding cochair

Representative Cannon called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Committee members in attendance were Senators Melissa Wintrow (cochair), and James D. Ruchti, Representatives David M. Cannon (cochair), Douglas T. Pickett, Ilana Rubel, and Steve Berch. Also present were Rakesh Mohan, Director of Office of Performance Evaluations; OPE staff; and Speaker of the House Mike Moyle.

Joshua Whitworth and Scott Smith from the State Controller's Office were also in attendance.

Representative Cannon began the meeting with a brief introduction and acknowledgment of the evaluation request submitted on February 13. He noted the unusual nature of convening a JLOC meeting on such short notice but referenced past precedent for similar actions in a 2011 request regarding Medicaid issues. Senator Wintrow expressed gratitude for the prompt response by OPE and the committee in scheduling this meeting and emphasized the importance of addressing concerns promptly.

Evaluation Request: Luma system

Speaker Moyle introduced himself and presented the request for action. He discussed the efforts of the State Controller and his staff in addressing issues with the Luma system. He discussed the need to delve into the root causes of the problems, assess progress, evaluate cost savings, and explore avenues for improvement and prevention of further issues. Speaker Moyle said there was blaming of state employees for the system's shortcomings and discussed the importance of supporting state employees and not putting the fault on them.

Representative Berch inquired about the timeframe for the evaluation, to which Speaker Moyle emphasized the urgency of starting the process promptly. Cochair Wintrow sought clarification on the timeline for the evaluation. Director Mohan outlined the process, noting that additional consultants may be brought in, and explained the expected completion would be by the fall JFAC meeting, either in October or November 2024.

Senator Wintrow sought clarification on OPE projects that have already been started and if this new study would interfere with ongoing projects. Director Mohan confirmed that nothing will be disrupted.

Senator Berch asked whether OPE would need to limit other projects to accommodate the evaluation's workload. Director Mohan noted the difficulty in predicting resource allocation but affirmed the study's significance.

Senator Wintrow motioned to accept the proposal and get started on the outlined timeline. Representative Rubel seconded the motion.

The committee discussed the motion. Senator Wintrow spoke about the importance of the study. Representative Berch spoke to thank the speaker. Senator Ruchti asked Director Mohan how OPE would approach the study by asking the right questions and looking for information not directly asked for. Director Mohan explained the request process, including meetings with stakeholders and internal meetings, and how they help bring context and scope to a large study. Senator Wintrow discussed the request and its broader implications for IT systems. Representative Berch asks if OPE will talk to vendors or third parties and if they need special permission to do so. Director Mohan said most likely they will need to talk to vendors, and state law gives the office authority to ask questions that are relevant.

Representative Cannon restated the motion for OPE to conduct a study/evaluation on the Luma system and to start the process immediately. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote without debate.

Representative Cannon adjourned the meeting at: 9:48 a.m.