

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
February 27, 2014
Room WW17, Capitol
Boise, Idaho

Cochair Senator Dean Mortimer called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. Attending the meeting were Senators Elliot Werk and Les Bock and Representatives Shirley Ringo (cochair), Maxine Bell, Gayle Batt, and Elaine Smith. Senator Cliff Bayer arrived shortly after the meeting started, and Representative Batt was excused from the meeting shortly after it started. Also present were Rakesh Mohan, director, Margaret Campbell, administrative coordinator, and other OPE staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2014

Representative Ringo moved to approve the minutes of February 13, 2014. Senator Werk seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Cochair Mortimer said one of the things the committee had hoped to accomplish today was a review of requests. He said it was going to be a big year for requests—there were a lot more coming. He also indicated he had reviewed JLOC Rules and there were some that the committee might want to discuss. He said members also needed to discuss where they want this function to go—even considering how often JLOC meets, whether to enlarge the committee with more members, and how to make the reports better by possibly looking at a prereview meeting to decide whether more work needs to be done on a report before it is released.

Because of the lateness of the hour, Cochair Mortimer said the committee will probably need at least two meetings to talk about what the committee does not have time for today, and one meeting to finalize topic selection. In addition to these meetings, Representative Ringo indicated that the committee also needed a meeting to review proposals before actually meeting to approve them. She indicated that JLOC may have discussed this part of the selection process too lightly in the past.

Senator Bock suggested having a more relaxed meeting to discuss proposals as long as the meeting did not violate open meeting laws.

From past experience, Senator Werk said a discussion about JLOC Rules would be delicate and involved. He advised holding a full-day meeting outside of session to consider rules. For examining the depth of information in reports, he suggested a meeting similar to JFAC's premeetings.

Representative Bell said minutes were not required in premeetings. She indicated that these types of meetings were useful only when members completed work in advance. Premeetings are open and no action is taken, but caution is required. She said she supported a full-day meeting to discuss rules.

The committee discussed their calendars to determine early meetings and late afternoon meetings during session. They indicated the week of March 11–14 would work for the next meeting. Representative Ringo said the next meeting would be a general discussion of proposals, and

Cochair Mortimer indicated a second meeting the week of March 17–21 could be for topic selection. Members discussed meeting times that would also be possible for agency officials and other legislators to attend. Representative Smith suggested a lunch meeting. Senator Bayer suggested e-mailing members for the best time—indicating that everyone needed to attend.

Senator Mortimer asked OPE to work with members to set a time for a meeting, and once set, the cochairs would work with leadership.

REVIEW REQUESTS FOR EVALUATION AND DISCUSS PRIORITIES FOR SELECTING TOPICS

Mr. Mohan said members of the Legislature were expressing interest in different topics. He had provided the committee with six proposals, and he had received one from Senator Geodde right before the meeting. Mr. Mohan said he was aware of seven more requests, some of which were similar and could be combined. Cochair Mortimer said he was also aware of several other requests.

Senator Werk asked about OPE capacity. Mr. Mohan said that in the past, OPE had regularly conducted three evaluations a year. As staff became better, he had increased the studies to four. Last year, doing five reports was too ambitious. He indicated he would ask for four reports, depending on size.

Representative Ringo moved to adjourn. Senator Bayer seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.