

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Minutes of the

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Friday, March 2, 2012
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Al Carlson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Representative Al Carlson; Senators Mac Schneider, Ryan M. Taylor, Rich Wardner

Members present through teleconference call: Representatives David Drovdal, Jerry Kelsh, Don Vigesaa; Senators Randel Christmann, Ralph L. Kilzer

Member absent: Representative Lee Kaldor

Others present: Courtney Koebele, Debra Anderson; North Dakota Medical Association, Bismarck

Jason J. Steckler, Kyle W. Forster; Legislative Council, Bismarck

Representative Bob Martinson, Bismarck

It was moved by Senator Wardner, seconded by Senator Schneider, and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2011, meeting of the committee.

LEGISLATIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

Computer Replacement

Chairman Carlson said the main purpose of this meeting is to receive the recommendation of the Computer Replacement Workgroup regarding new computers for legislators and Legislative Assembly employees. He recognized Mr. Kyle W. Forster, Information Technology Manager, Legislative Council, for a presentation ([Appendix](#)) regarding the recommendation of the Computer Replacement Workgroup.

Mr. Forster said the issues discussed during the selection process by the Computer Replacement Workgroup included business class (which should last through a four-year replacement cycle) versus consumer class (primarily a plastic component computer); screen size (15.6" versus 17.3"); screen resolution (older 1600 x 900 versus newer 1920 x 1080); weight; and hard drive encryption (which will protect contents on a laptop that is lost or stolen).

Mr. Forster said the workgroup also reviewed tablet computers. He said key features of tablets are form, e-reader, portability and multitouch use, and instant on. He said tablets will provide mobile access to e-mail, the Legislative Council website, Legislator's Automated Work Station system (LAWS), and information during committee meetings through wireless networks.

Mr. Forster said the notebook and office software budget for 227 units--141 legislators and 86 Legislative Assembly staff--totals \$510,750. He said the workgroup recommendation is to purchase HP 8760w notebooks (having the 17.3" screen and weighing 8.3 pounds) with Microsoft Office 2010 for legislators and Legislative Assembly staff. He said the workgroup also recommends the purchase of an Apple iPad for each legislator who requests one--but to wait until launch of the iPad 3 (presumed to be the replacement to the iPad 2) on Tuesday, March 7, 2012. He said the total cost of the recommendation is \$517,471. He noted the recommendation does not include the purchase of notebook bags for each legislator. He said the current bags should be adequate.

In response to a question from Representative Carlson, Mr. Forster said the iPads would be provided to legislators who request them and agree to use them. He said the workgroup members viewed the notebooks as more stationary (remaining in the chambers during the session and at home during the interim) and the tablets as the mobile unit taken to committee meetings.

In response to a question from Senator Schneider, Mr. Forster said current iPads work with LAWS and provide access to e-mail, create Word documents, and give access to Excel spreadsheets. He said he anticipates being able to set up the new iPads to allow sharing between the iPad and the notebook.

Representative Carlson said legislators need to understand the personal use option and the policy on personal use needs to be reviewed.

In response to a question from Senator Taylor, Representative Carlson said the personal use fee of \$10 and the policy on personal use will be scheduled for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

In response to a question from Representative Drovdal, Mr. Jason J. Steckler, Director, Administrative Services Division, Legislative Council, said a few new iPads would be purchased and tested by information technology staff to ensure their workability.

In response to a question from Representative Drovdal, Mr. Forster said the iPads allow items to be printed through a wireless printer connection.

In response to a suggestion from Senator Schneider that legislators be provided with the option of either receiving an iPad or a notebook computer, Mr. Forster said the iPad approach generally is

avored by younger legislators and the notebook approach is favored by older legislators, but the concern is how iPads would work in the chambers as the only vehicle for accessing LAWS. He said a change of mind to replace the iPads with notebook computers during a legislative session would be difficult to manage.

It was moved by Senator Wardner, seconded by Senator Schneider, and carried on a roll call vote to approve the recommendation of the workgroup as presented. Representatives Carlson, Drovdal, Kelsh, and Vigesaa and Senators Christmann, Kilzer, Taylor, and Wardner voted "aye." Senator Schneider voted "nay."

When asked to comment on the committee's action, Representative Bob Martinson, Chairman, Computer Replacement Workgroup, said there was a clear demarcation among members of the workgroup--with younger members favoring iPads and older members favoring notebook computers.

In response to a question from Representative Vigesaa, Mr. Forster said the initial iPads may be distributed within the next few months and the new laptops will start to be distributed over the summer as legislators come to Bismarck for interim committee meetings.

SESSION ARRANGEMENTS LEGISLATIVE SESSION ARRANGEMENTS Doctor of the Day Program

The director, Legal Services, referred to a letter from Ms. Courtney Koebele, North Dakota Medical Association, regarding continuation of the North Dakota Medical Association doctor of the day program during the 2013 legislative session. The letter notes the program will rely on physicians and residents from around the state to volunteer for this program and provide basic health care services and referrals on most days during which the Legislative Assembly is in session.

It was moved by Representative Drovdal, seconded by Senator Wardner, and carried on a roll call vote to accept the offer of the North Dakota Medical Association to continue the doctor of the day program during the 2013 legislative session. Representatives Carlson, Drovdal, Kelsh, and Vigesaa and Senators Christmann, Kilzer, Schneider, Taylor, and Wardner voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

Legislative Assembly Wellness Program

The director, Legal Services, said a wellness program needs to be selected for legislators during this biennium so as to continue to receive the health insurance premium discount. He said the 2011 wellness program for legislators was a comprehensive health assessment provided during the session by Altru physicians in Grand Forks through the doctor of the day program. He said Altru has made the offer to provide these assessments during the 2013 legislative session. He recommended continuation of this health assessment.

It was moved by Senator Schneider, seconded by Representative Kelsh, and carried on a roll call vote that the health risk assessment by Altru physicians be approved as the Legislative Assembly wellness program. Representatives Carlson, Drovdal, Kelsh, and Vigesaa and Senators Christmann, Kilzer, Schneider, Taylor, and Wardner voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

No further business appearing, Chairman Carlson adjourned the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Jay E. Buringrud
Director, Legal Services Division

Jim W. Smith
Director, Legislative Council

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