

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SARAH C. TUBBESING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

117th MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

WORK SESSION

January 24, 1996

SUMMARY

Approved February 6, 1996

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Sen. Amero, called the Council to order at 11:25 a.m. in Room 437. Sen. Amero reminded Council members that the meeting had originally been scheduled as a work session and suggested that the Council not take up any other business.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	President Butland, Sen. Lawrence, Sen. Kieffer, Sen. Bustin, Sen. Amero
Representatives:	Speaker Gwadosky, Rep. Whitcomb, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Carleton Absent: Rep. Jacques
Legislative Officers:	Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, Legislative Council Lynn Randall, State Law Librarian David Boulter, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis* Margaret Matheson, Revisor of Statutes May Ross, Secretary of the Senate* Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House*
Guests:	

Members of Committee on Total Quality Management in the Legislature: Rep. Carol A. Kontos, Chair; Sen. I. Joel Abromson; Donna Sullivan, OFPR.

Members of the TQM Subcommittee on Rules: Sen. Richard J. Carey, Senate Chair; Rep. Gary W. Reed, House Chair; Rep. Richard H. Thompson; Rep. Brenda Birney; David Elliott, OPLA; Judy Hayes, Revisor's Office; Teen Griffin, Legislative Information Office.

* Also members of the TQM Committee and/or Subcommittee on Rules.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Commission on Higher Education Governance: Request to Reconsider Commission Scope and Schedule

The Chair, Sen. Amero, recognized Rep. Mitchell, who had requested that this item be placed on the agenda. Rep. Mitchell recognized 4 members of the Commission who were present and thanked them for their hard work on behalf of the Commission. She reported that the Commission wished to propose that the Council accept a report on some aspects of their work by the March 1 deadline that the Council had approved at its previous meeting, but allow them to continue their work through June 30 as they had originally requested. Rep. Mitchell then stated that the Joint Standing Committee on Education had requested that the Council table this item until the members of that Committee had had an opportunity to review the Commission's proposed scope of work.

Motion: That the item be tabled. (Motion by Rep. Carleton; second by Sen. Kieffer; unanimous).

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Committee on Total Quality Management in the Legislature and Subcommittee on Rules

- **Proposed Recodification of Joint Rules: Presentation and Discussion**

The Chair, Sen. Amero, drew members' attention to the primary purpose of the work session -- reviewing the proposed recodification of the Joint Rules. She stated that several members of both the TQM Committee and the Subcommittee on Rules were present and expressed appreciation, on behalf of the entire Council, for the time and effort that both Committees had devoted to this significant undertaking.

Sen. Amero then recognized Representative Carol Kontos, the Co-Chair of the Committee on Total Quality Management in the Legislature. Rep. Kontos introduced the members of the 2 Committees who were present and paid special tribute to the Subcommittee on Rules, which had worked under a very tight time frame so that the proposed recodification could be ready early in the session, thus offering opportunity for a full dialogue among the entire membership. Rep. Kontos then turned the meeting over to Sen. Carey and Rep. Reed, Co-Chairs of the Subcommittee on Rules. Senator Carey expressed his appreciation to the Council for having appointed two strong committees, noting that all members of the Subcommittee had participated fully in the deliberations. He specifically recognized the efforts of David Elliott, Principal Analyst in OPLA, and Judy Hayes, Paralegal in the Office of the Revisor, who as members of the Subcommittee, had

also taken responsibility for all of the drafting and redrafting that had been central to the Subcommittee's work. Sen. Carey observed that both Mr. Elliott and Ms. Hayes attested to the capabilities of the Legislature's non-partisan staff. Finally, Sen. Carey thanked the Council for giving the Subcommittee the freedom to look at all of the Rules "without interference." Representative Reed echoed Sen. Carey's comments, adding that he appreciated the privilege of being given the task of recodifying the rules. He concluded by noting that "the Subcommittee meetings had been fun."

Sen. Carey and Rep. Reed then asked David Elliott to lead Council members through the proposed Recodification.

The presentation was accompanied by a free-flowing discussion among Council members and the members of the two committees, and resulted in consensus that the Subcommittee would review the proposed language in three areas and present amended language to the Council at its next meeting.

Rep. Reed concluded the presentation by acknowledging the Subcommittee's special debt to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House for sharing their broad knowledge of current practice.

Sen. Amero again thanked both Committees and then raised the question of how to proceed from here. Consensus emerged that once the Subcommittee had presented the requested revisions, the Council would vote on formal adoption of the rules. Senate President Butland and Speaker Gwadosky agreed to schedule a joint caucus so that there would be a single presentation of the Recodification to members of both bodies and both parties.

The work session was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.