

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEN. JANE A. AMERO
CHAIR

REP. ELIZABETH H. MITCHELL
VICE-CHAIR



Lynn Randall
Legislative Council Info.

JEFFREY H. BUTLAND
LEO KIEFFER
MARK W. LAWRENCE
SEN. BEVERLY MINER BUSTIN
REP. DAN A. GWADOSKY
REP. PAUL F. JACQUES
REP. WALTER E. WHITCOMB
REP. JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
SARAH C. TUBBESING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

117th MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

August 21, 1996

Approved October 28, 1996

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Senator Amero, called the Council meeting to order at 2:14 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	President Butland, Sen. Lawrence, Sen. Kieffer, Sen. Bustin, Sen. Amero
Representatives:	Speaker Gwadosky, Rep. Jacques, Rep. Whitcomb, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Carleton
Legislative Officers:	Sally Tubbesing, Executive Director, Legislative Council Jim Clair, Deputy Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review Patrick Norton, Principal Analyst, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Margaret Matheson, Revisor of Statutes May Ross, Secretary of the Senate Joseph Mayo, Clerk of the House

SUMMARY OF JULY 25, 1996, COUNCIL MEETING

Motion: That the Meeting Summary be approved and placed on file.
(Motion by Speaker Gwadosky; second by Sen. Bustin; unanimous).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sally Tubbesing presented the following items for Council members' consideration:

Item #1: Personnel Actions

a. Hires

Ms. Tubbesing announced that Rose Breton had accepted an offer to fill the position of Assistant for Administrative Services.

No Council action was required on this item.

b. Resignations

Ms. Tubbesing reported that two members of the Information Systems Staff have resigned to take other positions:

Senator Amero, noting the importance of technology to the Legislature and the centrality of information in the Legislature's draft strategic plan, stated that this is an ideal time to assemble a committee to talk about how we might better organize and support the Legislature's information services and support. Speaker Gwadosky endorsed this, and Senator Amero announced that she would be making appointments to this Committee in the very near future.

No Council action was required on this item.

Item #2: Legislative Budget: FY 96 Year End Status and Preliminary Information Regarding FY 98 - FY 99 Biennial Budget Request

Ms. Tubbesing draw Council members' attention to materials in their packets that summarized the expenditures for Fiscal Year 1996, which ended June 30. She reported that she and Rose Breton had begun working on developing the preliminary budget requests for the 1998-1999 fiscal biennium and that they would bring these proposals to the Council for review at the September meeting. Senator Amero stated that it will be important to develop a plan for capital expenditures as part of that biennial proposal to ensure the continued pursuit of repairs to and restoration of the State House as part of that process.

No Council action was required on this item.

Item #3: State House Roof Repairs

Ms. Tubbesing reported that bids had been opened the previous Tuesday and that all four of the pre-selected contractors had responded. Bids ranged from \$622,680 to \$673,800, and the low apparent bidder is Peachey Builders of Augusta. Ms. Tubbesing state that pre-construction planning has begun, based on the Council's authorization at its July meeting to proceed if bids came in within the budget that the Council had approved in the spring. The Contractors have been asked to plan this work around the Special Session.

No further Council action was required on this item.

Item #4: Lynn Randall's Participation in New England Association of Law Librarians

Ms. Tubbesing announced that Lynn Randall had recently been elected to the position of Vice President/President-Elect of the New England Association of Law Librarians, which is the regional affiliate of the American Association of Law Librarians.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Strategic Planning Working Group

Senator Amero reported that the Legislature has now submitted its Draft Strategic Plan, meeting the September 1 deadline. The Draft Plan, which comprises a Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives, will now be circulated broadly among legislators, legislative staff, and the Legislature's external "stakeholders" for comments.

Representative Mitchell added that she and the other members of the Working Group look forward to receiving these comments and incorporating them in a revised draft. She applauded the commitment that all members of the Working Group share for making the Legislature more responsive and stated that she had particularly valued the contributions of the non-partisan staff

Directors to this effort. Speaker Gwadosky echoed Rep. Mitchell's comments, adding that the Working Group had benefitted from the work of David Boulter and John Wakefield.

No Council action was required on this item.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Maine Development Foundation Proposal to Expand Institute Program for Incoming Legislators

The Chair, Senator Amero, recognized Meredith Jones, Director of Communications and Development, Maine Development Foundation, who distributed a proposed budget for the Policy Leaders Academy as Council members had requested at their July meeting. Ms. Jones briefly summarized the budget and indicated that the Foundation sought Council guidance on a variety of issues, including the level of financial investment it wishes to make in the proposed program.

Sally Tubbesing then drew Council members' attention to material that she had prepared that summarized the costs related to both the 2-day Conference on Maine's Economic Future and the two economic tours that the Foundation had organized in the early weeks of the First Regular Session of the 117th Legislature. Total payments by the Legislature were \$32,127.72; of this amount, more than two-thirds was spent on meals and lodging expenses for participating legislators.

In the discussion that followed, Council members raised the following questions:

1. Would the Legislature pay the actual cost, or was the budget predicated on payment of the full \$70 daily allowance? (Sen. Kieffer)

Ms. Tubbesing responded that the Legislature had paid actual costs in the past; and Ms. Jones confirmed that payment legislators' actual costs was the expectation.

2. Is the budget request written in concrete? (Sen. Amero)

Ms. Jones responded that the budget was based on her estimates and that the amount would certainly change as actual planning progressed.

3. How did the Foundation arrive at the amount of the Foundation's proposed contribution of this project of \$35,200? (Sen. Lawrence)

Ms. Jones responded that this amount represents one half of the total cost of Foundation staff time that would be committed to this program.

4. What other direct costs does the Foundation anticipate and what is the rationale for asking the Legislature to pick up these direct costs? (Sen. Lawrence)

Ms. Jones identified the following direct costs: hiring some expert resources, such as an economist, to assist in planning and, perhaps conducting aspects of the program; data collection; and 3-ring binders for all participants. She observed that it had been the Foundation's experience that a significant financial investment in a program often improves the general quality of commitment to the program and, therefore, affects the overall quality of the program itself.

The discussion then turned to how the Council should proceed with voting on the proposal. Senator Kieffer advocated voting on each segment separately, noting that he was very supportive of the Leadership Training segment of the proposed program but "lukewarm" about the tours. Rep. Carleton responded that he had gone on one of the tours and found it very illuminating in terms of understanding regional economic differences, issues and problems. Speaker Gwadosky commented on the important networking opportunity that the tours provide for new members and added that he thought Leadership Training was particularly important in view of term limits. Rep. Whitcomb added his support for Leadership Training, but expressed the hope that the Legislature develop some in-house capacity to train in this area over time.

Motion: That the Council approve Items #1-4 of the Maine Development Foundation proposal as follows:

- Item #1: One-day Conference: Overview of the Maine Economy;
- Items #2 & 3: Three-day economic tours of eastern/northern Maine and central & southern Maine respectively.
- Item #4: Leadership Training.

(Motion by Sen. Bustin; second by Rep. Carleton).

Discussion: Senate President Butland asked Senator Bustin if she would accept a friendly amendment to narrow the Motion to Items #2-4 only; however, Senator Bustin asked that the vote be taken on her original motion.

The vote was then taken and the motion was approved 6-3.

Ms. Jones thanked Council members and stated that she would work with the three dissenting members (Senators Butland, Kieffer and Lawrence) to try and address their concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Requests to Introduce Legislation to the Proposed Second Special Session

The Chair, Senator Amero, briefly reviewed the Council's procedures for considering bill requests. Requests to introduce legislation to the Second Special Session were considered by the Legislative Council. The Council's action on these requests is included on the attached list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

The Chair, Senator Amero, announced that she would try to schedule the Council's September meeting during the Second Special Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m., on the motion of Rep. Jacques (second by Sen. Lawrence).