



# MINUTES

## International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

February 26, 2009

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### MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Helen Miller,  
Chairperson  
Representative Richard T. Anderson  
Representative Paul A. Bell  
Representative Lisa K. Heddens  
Representative Rod A. Roberts  
Representative Linda L. Upmeyer

Senator Daryl Beall,  
Vice Chairperson  
Senator Dennis H. Black  
Senator Nancy J. Boettger  
Senator James A. Seymour

## MEETING IN BRIEF

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Organizational staffing provided  
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Minutes prepared by: Amanda  
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6048

- I. **Procedural Business**
- II. **Focus and Goals**
- III. **Policies on Gifts**
- IV. **Protocols for Foreign Guests**
- V. **Other Business**
- VI. **Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency**



## International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

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### I. Procedural Business

**Call to Order.** Chairperson Miller called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. on February 26, 2009, in Room 24 of the Statehouse. The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

**Quorum.** A quorum was present.

**Introductions.** The committee members introduced themselves.

### II. Focus and Goals

Chairperson Miller read the following statement as the focus and goals of the International Relations Committee: The Iowa Legislative Council has adopted a policy that actively involves the Iowa General Assembly in developing relationships with other countries, including educating legislators regarding international relations, welcoming international visitors and assisting them in understanding Iowa's governmental process and traditions, working with the various state agencies and other entities which promote international relations, participating in developing Iowa's trade with other nations, and establishing a budget to accomplish these goals.

**Discussion.** Members requested that they be informed in advance when international visitors are visiting the Capitol.

### III. Policies on Gifts

The Committee members discussed the price level and types of gifts to present to international visitors to the Capitol. The Committee members discussed the array of items to select from and the variety of visitors to the Capitol.

Committee members suggested that a record be kept of gifts and recipients when legislators travel abroad to avoid duplicating gifts when the same location and hosts are visited on subsequent trips.

A Committee member suggested that the prior approval form for gifts be amended to include the signature of the ranking minority member, so that two signatures would be required: either the chairperson or vice chairperson of the Committee and the ranking member. The intent is to ensure transparency.

Members proposed that a policy that suggests what price point or which gifts are appropriate for specific international visitors would be helpful.

The Committee made no decisions about a gift policy, but took the matter under advisement.

### IV. Protocols for Foreign Guests

The Committee members agreed that it would be beneficial to remind their respective caucuses of the protocols about behavior in the respective chambers when an international visitor is present. The Committee members suggested that special attention should be given to the pages and to the news media, who may be unaware of the protocols.



The Committee members suggested continuing to have the country flags of the international visitors at the front of the chamber. The flags are available from the Legislative Information Office.

The Committee staff is working with the Governor's Office to coordinate protocols for international visitors.

### **V. Other Business**

The Consul General of Thailand, Narong Sasitorn, and his wife, Chantana Sasitorn, will be visiting the Capitol on March 5, 2009. Vice Chairperson Beall showed the Senate Certificates of Recognition that he has had prepared for the couple. It was suggested that a Certificate of Recognition be developed that can be presented to international visitors on behalf of the entire General Assembly and the Committee.

Mr. William Angrick, the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman, briefed the Committee about some of the international travel he has taken as he has served as President of the International Ombudsman Institute. Mr. Angrick suggested that an official photograph with an international visitor and a dignitary from the Legislature is greatly appreciated. He also suggested creating a display cabinet for some of the items that have been received by members of the Legislature over the years from international visitors and when legislators visit abroad. Mr. Angrick mentioned his office's efforts to give international visitors a memorable experience, such as a visit to a farm or the bridges of Madison County.

Mr. Del Christensen, Executive Director of the Iowa Resource for International Travel, thanked the Committee for its support.

### **VI. Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency**

The following materials were distributed in connection with the meeting and are filed with the Legislative Services Agency. The materials may be accessed from the <Additional Information> link on the Committee's Internet webpage:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=47>.

1. Calendar Year 2008 Activities of the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman.
2. International Fund Report.
3. Hosting International Visitors at the Iowa General Assembly.
4. International Relations Committee: Gift Policy Rough Draft.
5. International Ombudsman Institute.