



MINUTES

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

April 2, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Helen Miller,
Chairperson
Representative Richard T. Anderson
Representative McKinley D. Bailey
Representative Lisa K. Heddens
Representative Rod A. Roberts
Representative Linda L. Upmeyer

Senator Nancy J. Boettger
Senator Gene Fraise
Senator James A. Seymour

MEETING IN BRIEF

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Organizational staffing provided
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6048

- I. **Procedural Business**
- II. **Policy on Gifts and Protocol for Foreign Guests**
- III. **Notification of Committee About International Visitors**
- IV. **Committee Review of Resolutions With International Impact**
- V. **Iowa Dialog Center Reception**
- VI. **Other Business**
- VII. **Materials Filed With the Legislative Services Agency**



International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

I. Procedural Business

Call to Order. Chairperson Miller called the meeting to order at 12:26 p.m. on April 2, 2009, in Room 103 of the Statehouse. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Minutes Approved. A quorum was present. The minutes from the meeting on March 26, 2009, were approved by a voice vote.

II. Policy on Gifts and Protocol for Foreign Guests

Chairperson Miller asked for discussion about the final drafts about the Committee's policy on gifts and protocol for foreign guests.

A Committee member remarked that there had not been any discussion about how the Committee entertains international visitors or delegations when they visit the Capitol or the funds that are provided so that the Committee may do so. Chairperson Miller noted that the issue had not been raised as a problem and assured members that the funds for such activities are still in place.

The gift policy and the protocol for foreign guests were approved by a roll call vote. The vote was nine members voting yes, with three members absent.

III. Notification of Committee About International Visitors

Chairperson Miller noted that a Panamanian delegation visited the Statehouse on Monday, March 30, but she was not notified until that day and no one else on the Committee was notified at all of the delegation's visit. Chairperson Miller said that this lack of communication occurred even though members of the House knew about the delegation's visit as early as March 12. Chairperson Miller noted that there is no mechanism that requires or encourages legislators in either chamber to inform the Committee about visiting delegations or other international visitors.

A Committee member asked Chairperson Miller how the Committee should be notified or who would know to notify the Committee when there are international visitors. Chairperson Miller said that she has spoken to the leaders of both chambers about getting a spot on the legislative Internet website that would allow legislators to enter such information. Chairperson Miller said she also met with representatives from the Governor's Office and the Department of Economic Development to work on coordination of communication efforts.

Committee members discussed the need to work together so that every international visitor can be welcomed to the Capitol on behalf of both chambers. Chairperson Miller noted that not a single international visitor has been introduced in the House this session.

IV. Committee Review of Resolutions with International Impact

The Committee discussed making the review of resolutions with content addressing matters outside the boundaries of the United States as part of the official duties of the Committee. The discussion is a direct result of the concerns of several Committee members about the content of House Resolution 27, which contained language about another country that Committee members believed would be objectionable.



V. Iowa Dialog Center Reception

The Iowa Dialog Center has asked the Committee members to be the hosts for a luncheon reception in Room 116 of the Statehouse on April 7, 2009.

VI. Other Business

A Committee member suggested that if the Department of Cultural Affairs or Department of Economic Development is providing an information packet to an inbound delegation, a letter of introduction from the International Relations Committee that explains its role be included. The other Committee members agreed and asked staff member Joe Royce to draft such a letter.

A House representative has approached the Committee for assistance regarding gifts for a trip to Nigeria.

Chairperson Miller said that the Committee needs to apportion several gift receipts and decide what portion the Committee will pay out of the gift fund and what portion the legislator will pay because the gifts were not authorized.

The Committee members discussed and agreed that when multiple legislators are going on the same trip, there needs to be coordination between travelers about who is giving what and perhaps put one person in charge. The Committee members agreed that the gift fund should only pay for official gifts and there should be a record of what gift was given and to whom. Smaller unofficial gifts are the responsibility of the individual.

A representative of the Department of Cultural Affairs informed the Committee that this is the 50th anniversary of the sister state agreement with Yamanshi, Japan, and informed the Committee that festivities are being planned through the Governor's Office.

VII. 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 site:

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

1. International Fund, Fiscal Year '09, Legislative Information Office.
2. International Relations Committee: Gift Policy (Final Draft).
3. Hosting International Visitors at the Iowa General Assembly (Final Draft).
4. International Relations Protocol—Summary.
5. House Resolution 27.
6. Minutes from the March 26, 2009, Meeting of the International Relations Committee.