



MINUTES

International Relations Committee

Thursday, January 18, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Charles Schneider, Vice Chairperson
Senator Jeff Danielson
Senator Julian B. Garrett
Senator Rita Hart

Representative Terry C. Baxter, Chairperson
Representative Marti Anderson
Representative Stan Gustafson
Representative Art Staed

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CONTENTS

- I. Procedural Business
- II. Committee Discussion

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I. Procedural Business

Background and Charge. The International Relations Committee was created by the Legislative Council in 1992. The committee's charge is as follows: develop goals and procedures that will facilitate international communication between the Iowa General Assembly and foreign governments on several different levels, including but not limited to interpersonal interaction between state legislators and legislative staff and foreign visitors, instruction about state and local democratic institutions, and the development of trade in foreign markets.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Baxter at 11:32 a.m., on Thursday, January 18, 2018, in Room 102 of the State Capitol Building in Des Moines.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

II. Committee Discussion

The members introduced themselves, gave short comments regarding their interest in the committee, travel, and connections made during the 2017 Interim. Members discussed frustrations with the scheduling conflicts that continue to prevent them from attending committee meetings, whether the committee should meet bimonthly, and whether the committee should meet knowing that members often will be unable to attend portions or all of the meetings scheduled. Notice was provided regarding an Iowa delegation that will be visiting Kosovo and members were invited to consider joining the delegation, though it was also noted that the committee does not have the resources to provide any financial assistance to members who wish to participate. Members were asked to contact the chairperson regarding any upcoming visits to the Capitol by international delegations and members residing near Des Moines in particular were asked to volunteer to meet with international delegations when the General Assembly is not in session. The lack of communication regarding international delegations visiting the Capitol was discussed, as was the suggestion that the committee ask the Governor's office to provide the committee with better notification of such visits. The committee discussed gifts from international visitors, the lack of space in the Capitol to display such gifts, whether the Department of Cultural Affairs might be able to assist in finding a spot to display gifts received by committee members, and whether to invite the Iowa International Center to present before the committee.

Doc ID 917,365