

MINUTES

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

November 29, 1994

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator William Palmer at 10:20 a.m. in Room 22 of the State Capitol Building, Des Moines, Iowa. In addition to Chairperson Palmer, the following members were present:

Senator Maggie Tinsman
Representative Pam Jochum
Representative Mary Lundby

Others present included Ms. Diane Bolender, Director, Mr. Richard Johnson, Deputy Director, Ms. Julie Smith, Legal Counsel, and Mr. Mark Johnson, Legal Counsel, Legislative Service Bureau; Ms. Liz Isaacson, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives; Ms. Cynde Clingan, Assistant Secretary of the Senate; Mr. Sandy Scharf, Director, Computer Support Bureau; and members of the respective Caucus Staffs.

UPDATE ON CAPITOL PRESERVATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Mr. Mark Johnson, Legislative Service Bureau, provided an update on the capitol preservation and accessibility work that was approved by the Legislative Council at the June 15 meeting of the Legislative Council. He informed the Committee that work under the Woodruff Construction Co. contract is approximately 85 percent complete, that partitions for separation of the lactation area are ordered, that the subbasement electrical work is ready to offer for bid, that signage will be ready for bid after the first of the year, and that the fire hood for the cafeteria will be ordered next week and should be installed before the start of the 1995 session.

AGREEMENT WITH MEAD DATA CENTRAL FOR IOWA CODE

Mr. Mark Johnson reported that a tentative agreement has been reached with Mead Data Central for purchase of the electronic Iowa Code database and the Iowa Court Rules through the year 1999 with a two-year option provided for renewal. He added that starting in 1996, the agreement will also cover sale of the Administrative Code database to Mead Data Central.

AGREEMENT WITH COMPASS DATA CENTRAL FOR CD-ROM

Ms. Diane Bolender, Director, Legislative Service Bureau, provided the Committee with a written memorandum summarizing activity relating to the CD-ROM contract. She explained that the 1995 CD-ROM will be issued late this fall and will include the 1995 Iowa Code; the 1993 and 1994 Iowa Acts; the Iowa Court Rules; and Iowa Administrative Code titles relating to the Department of Commerce, Insurance Division, Utilities Division, the Department of Education, and the Department of Revenue and Finance. Ms. Bolender continued that in the spring a second CD-ROM will be issued which will include the 1995 Iowa Code and the 1993 and 1994 Acts; the Iowa Court Rules; the same departmental titles of the Iowa Administrative Code updated through December 1994; and additional Iowa Administrative Code titles relating to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Department of Inspections and Appeals, the Environmental Protection Commission, and the Iowa Department of Public Health. She explained that persons who purchase the fall version will automatically receive the spring update and that a reduced price based upon actual costs will be charged to members and staff of the General Assembly, state agencies, local governments, and certain other government entities.

UPDATE ON ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES

Ms. Bolender informed the Committee that the assistive listening devices previously approved by the Legislative Council were installed in both the House and the Senate. She stated that personnel in each chamber will be trained in the use of the equipment prior to the start of the 1995 session.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

Ms. Bolender informed the Committee that the Computer User Policy Direction Committee has created a subcommittee to discuss the issues associated with requests for electronic access to General Assembly information. She stated that when the Computer User Policy Direction Committee develops a policy for access, the Administration Committee will be asked to address the issue. Chairperson Palmer expressed the belief that the Committee does not have a great deal of discretion on the issue of access because the information is considered to be a public record. Ms. Bolender explained that the focus of the policy would be upon those persons who wish access in order to resell the information. Mr. Sandy Scharf, Director, Computer Support Bureau, who was recognized to discuss the issue, stated that there are many indirect costs when considering the input required to build the various information databases, such as the salaries of people producing the data. Chairperson Palmer expressed the belief that if the information is developed by the General Assembly, the General Assembly can charge a transfer amount, but that the General Assembly cannot charge for information that it uses itself because these costs would exist anyway. Ms. Bolender stated that there is a statutory formula for

calculating the price of producing the printed copies of the Iowa Code which includes a calculation of hours spent by employees.

A motion was made by Representative Jochum that staff of the Administration Committee, after consideration of the staff Computer User Policy Direction Committee's discussion of the issues, recommend an amount to be charged for access to daily update information including bills and amendments, bill history, and the subject index and that the specific amount be subject to final approval by House and Senate leaders. Representative Lundby moved that the motion be amended to provide that approval be required from the Legislative Council at its next meeting rather than House and Senate leaders. The amendment was adopted.

Ms. Bolender offered further information relating to access by providing the Committee with copies of information relating to the General Assembly that is available over the Internet from the League of Women Voters of Iowa. She explained that the League, in conjunction with Cornell College, is interested in enhancing this information by providing session information relating to the work of the General Assembly. Chairperson Palmer made a motion to amend the earlier motion to include the League of Women Voters of Iowa request when studying the issue of electronic access and cost of providing General Assembly information. The amended motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Ms. Bolender updated the Committee on action taken under the Unisys contract and relayed information that the Unisys consultant, Mr. Andy McDermont, is in the process of providing a requirements definition report to the Legislative Service Bureau and the Senate and House of Representatives regarding the bill drafting system. She indicated that the members will be informed when the report is received. The members of the Committee thanked the Chair for a good year and a motion was made to arise.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JULIE SMITH
Legal Counsel

3010LC