

MINUTES

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 15, 1994

The meeting of the Administration Committee was called to order by the Chairperson, Senator William Palmer, on June 15, 1994, at 11:07 a.m. in Room 22 of the State Capitol Building. In addition to Chairperson Palmer, the following members were present:

**Senator Florence Buhr
Senator Maggie Tinsman
Representative Pam Jochum
Representative Mary Lundby
Representative Brent Siegrist**

Also present during the meeting were several members of the Fiscal Committee who were invited to attend the meeting; Ms. Diane Bolender, Director, and Mr. Richard Johnson, Deputy Director, Legislative Service Bureau; other legislative staff members; and other interested persons. The Committee approved, as distributed, the minutes of the December 1, 1993, and May 22, 1994, meetings.

TEXT EDITING SYSTEM STUDY

Ms. Diane Bolender, Director, Legislative Service Bureau, discussed a proposal concerning the replacement of the text editing system used by the Service Bureau, and the Senate and House of Representatives for the presentation and engrossment of bills and amendments. Ms. Bolender directed the Committee's attention to a memorandum prepared for the Committee and distributed at the meeting. She stated that the current system is operated through the Unysis mainframe and is 10 years old. She indicated that while she believes this system is the best system currently operating in any state, a need exists to upgrade the text editing system and integrate that system into the personal computer network, rather than to maintain the separate specialized mainframe terminals. She noted that problems have occurred within the current text editing system as a result of its direct tie to the Mapper system when the Mapper system is being updated to a new operating level.

Ms. Bolender informed the Committee that Unisys has developed a proposal to work with Iowa General Assembly staff to develop a requirements definition report for the text editing system. She noted that Unisys has indicated that the approximate cost for assisting the General Assembly in completion of the requirements definition study would be \$45,000. She requested that the Administration Committee recommend that the Legislative Council authorize the expenditure of an amount not exceeding \$25,000 from funds available to the General Assembly pursuant to section 2.12 of the Code for partial payment of the costs associated with

a contract to be entered into with Unisys for the development of the requirements definition. She stated that the Service Bureau would pay the remaining amount from funds within the current Service Bureau budget.

In response to an inquiry from Senator Buhr, Ms. Bolender stated that the total amount under the contract would be spent for completion of the requirements definition study, and no amount would be spent for the procurement of the new system or its installation. In response to a question from Senator Dieleman, Mr. Sandy Scharf, Director, Computer Support Bureau, indicated that the procurement of a new system would include phasing out the use of the specialized computer terminals and the integration of all text editing computer operations into the personal computer network. There being no further discussion, Representative Lundby moved that the Administration Committee recommend that the Legislative Council approve the proposal as submitted by the Service Bureau and the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from funds available to the General Assembly under section 2.12 of the Code. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY ISSUES

Mr. Ralph Oltman, Department of General Services, briefly reviewed for the Committee the request for information which was made by the Committee at its May meeting concerning fire and life safety issues in the State Capitol. Mr. Oltman briefly referred to the January 1992 report prepared by RDG Bussard Dikis entitled "Iowa State Capitol Life Safety and Interior Restoration Task Force Study" and noted that the information being provided to the Committee was based on that report. Mr. Oltman introduced Mr. Roy Marshall, State Fire Marshal, who stated that the Capitol Building does not currently meet state fire code standards partially due to the age of the building and the architectural design. He noted that it would probably never meet all fire code standards, but stated that there are measures which can be taken to reduce the risks involved and provide greater protection to persons in the building.

Mr. Bill Dikis and Mr. Ron Siggelkow, RDG Bussard Dikis, indicated that the report was an attempt to address fire and life safety issues without affecting the historical and architectural integrity of the Capitol Building. Mr. Siggelkow noted that the correction of all fire code deficiencies is not a reasonable approach, given the intent to maintain the architectural character of the Capitol Building. He indicated that the report and information provided to the Committee are based on the use of an alternative approach to life safety which permits flexibility in developing design solutions which achieve equivalent safety to that provided by building and fire code standards.

Mr. Oltman responded to a question by Chairperson Palmer stating that he would estimate the replacement cost of the Capitol Building at a minimum of \$150-250 million. He stated that there is approximately 300,000 square feet of space in the Capitol Building and that the replacement cost for a normal building would be estimated at approximately \$100 per

square foot. He stated that given the nature of the Capitol Building, the replacement would be at least five times that figure and possibly more. Mr. Dikis indicated his agreement with Mr. Oltman's analysis.

Mr. Dikis referred to an update of the 1992 Task Force Study which was provided to the Committee. He indicated that the initial study was premised on the following factors: contribution to life safety; disruption of historic integrity; cost; disruption of user groups; and time required to implement the solution. Mr. Dikis indicated that the update to the report identifies life safety and accessibility items which RDG Bussard Dikis believes to be most urgent, and lists those items in order of costs and in order of the estimated amount of time for completion of each item. Copies of the update to the report are on file in the Legislative Service Bureau offices. In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Dikis indicated his opinion that the sprinkler system is the most important item with respect to fire and life safety. In response to an inquiry from Senator Bennett, Mr. Dikis indicated that the installation of a sprinkler system could be divided into smaller projects rather than being completed all at the same time, but that the cost for piecemeal completion would probably be higher.

Representative Lundby asked if any thought had been given to where employees would be moved if the intermediate floors were to be removed. Mr. Oltman responded that the employees would be moved to existing office space on the Capitol Complex which would probably mean moving another agency off the Capitol Complex to rented space. Senator Tinsman suggested that consideration of the removal of the intermediate floors, the sprinkler system, and renovation of the Old Historical Building be considered as one package of items and that these be considered during the next legislative session.

Chairperson Palmer moved to recommend that the Legislative Council approve all of the following:

Fire and Life Safety Recommendations

1. Install fire-rated door assembly at south tunnel entrance (\$5,000).
2. Develop emergency preparedness plan (\$6,000).
3. Install handrails and slip-resistant floor surface at south tunnel (\$8,000).
4. Install door closers (\$21,000).
5. Construct fire separation between cafeteria and corridor (\$66,000).
6. Replace old electrical system (\$73,000).

Accessibility Recommendations

1. Install accessible drinking fountains (\$7,000).
2. Alter public restrooms to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements (\$8,000).
3. Install accessible public telephones and booths (\$8,000).
4. Revise door hardware for improved accessibility pursuant to the ADA (\$15,000).
5. Install directional and identification signage complying with the ADA (\$21,000).

Senator Bennett inquired as to the amount of money which would be available for these projects. Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, indicated that an estimated general fund balance of \$35 million will remain at the end of Fiscal Year 1994 and \$67 million will remain at the end of Fiscal Year 1995. In response to further questions, Mr. Prouty indicated that it is estimated that there will be \$2.2 million in excess of the 2 percent cash reserve requirement. Senator Tinsman expressed her concern about satisfying the budget GAAP deficit requirements and the payment of bills on time, and asked that the expenditure of funds by the Council not jeopardize these efforts. Representative Siegrist indicated that the statutory requirements with respect to the GAAP deficit have been fulfilled and that the state is currently ahead of the statutory schedule.

Senator Tinsman questioned the expenditure for the development of the emergency preparedness plan and inquired as to whether that could be completed by Department of General Services personnel. After Committee discussion, Mr. Oltman indicated that he would assume the responsibility for developing this plan without outside assistance. Senator Tinsman then requested unanimous consent to strike the emergency preparedness plan from Senator Palmer's motion. There being no further discussion, the motion, as amended, was adopted without dissent.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES

Ms. Diane Bolender presented to the Committee a proposal from the ADA Staff Committee (consisting of the Secretary of the Senate, Chief Clerk of the House, Director of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, and Assistant Chief Clerk of the House) for the installation of closed circuit narrow-band FM radio systems for the Senate and the House, and the purchase of a portable infrared assistive listening device system and 14 FM receivers for committee rooms. She stated that the Staff Committee is requesting that an amount not to exceed \$7,500 be approved for the proposal. Ms. Bolender also presented a proposed policy for accessibility for persons with disabilities. She noted that the policy addresses the issues of access to printed materials, interpreting services, assistive listening systems, telephone access, and physical access. In response to a question from Senator Buhr, Mr. Jim Addy, Assistant Chief Clerk, indicated that if no interpreter is available through the Division of Deaf Services in the Department of Human Services, then an interpreter would be provided through a private provider. Senator Tinsman suggested that the frequency with which this service is provided should be monitored and if the need for such services becomes great, the General Assembly will need to look at options for controlling costs associated with providing such services. There being no further discussion, the Committee adopted a motion to recommend that the Council approve the expenditure of up to \$7,500 for assistive listening devices and the proposed policy for accessibility for persons with disabilities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairperson Palmer adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK W. JOHNSON
Legal Counsel

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