



MINUTES

International Relations Committee

March 7, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Annette Sweeney, Chairperson
Senator Kevin Alons
Senator Nate Boulton
Senator William Dotzler
Senator Carrie Koelker

Representative Eddie Andrews, Vice Chair
Representative Ako Abdul-Samad
Representative Jon Dunwell
Representative Thomas Gerhold
Representative Helena Hayes
Representative Elinor Levin
Representative Sami Scheetz
Representative Brad Sherman
Representative Mark Thompson

LSA CONTACTS: Organizational staffing provided by: Joseph McEniry, Senior Legal Counsel, 515.281.3189, joseph.mceniry@legis.iowa.gov; Minutes prepared by: Joseph McEniry, Senior Legal Counsel, 515.281.3189, joseph.mceniry@legis.iowa.gov

CONTENTS

- I. Procedural Business
- II. Senator Boettger Presentation
- III. Discussion



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, Motion, and Adjournment. The meeting of the International Relations Committee was called to order by Chairperson Sweeney at 12:30 p.m., Monday, March 7, 2023, in Room 116 of the State Capitol, Des Moines. Senator Sweeney moved that the committee approve the purchase of gifts for visitors including 300 lapel pins, 100 stock pins, and 26 ties. The motion was seconded and the committee approved the purchase of the items. The committee additionally approved the minutes from the January 23, 2023, meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

II. Senator Boettger Presentation

Senator Nancy Boettger, former Chairperson of the International Relations Committee, provided the committee with background on the development of the committee documents "Hosting International Visitors Protocols" and "Policy on Gifts for International Visitors." Senator Boettger stated serving as Chairperson of the International Relations Committee was the highlight of her legislative career. The work of the committee is important and bipartisan. The protocols were developed because previous meetings with international visitors were not conducted in as professional a manner as possible from a protocol standpoint. When Iowa legislators visited international destinations, especially Taiwan, each legislator was made to feel special and the committee wanted to replicate that process in our state. The protocols include small things like displaying the visiting country's flag in the Senate well, closing laptops, turning off phones, and greeting each visitor in the chamber. The committee also recognized exchanging gifts with international visitors is very important for the development of better international relations, so the committee developed gift-giving procedures and published the Policy on Gifts for International Visitors.

III. Discussion

Senator Dotzler commented that doing little things means a lot to international visitors. He discussed when he provided an impromptu tour to international visitors. Senator Dotzler also commented that international visitors should be brought to the Senate Well and introduced on the Senate floor and not introduced from the balcony which is the current practice. Representative Andrews commented that many contacts and trade deals are developed through international travel by legislators. Finally, the committee presented Senator Boettger with a Capitol Crystal gift and thanked her for her service to the State of Iowa.