



MINUTES

International Relations Committee

Monday, January 29, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Annette Sweeney, Chairperson
Senator Nate Boulton
Senator William A. Dotzler Jr.
Senator Jesse Green

Representative Eddie Andrews, Vice Chairperson
Representative Ruth Ann Gaines
Representative Thomas D. Gerhold
Representative Elinor A. Levin
Representative Brad Sherman
Representative Mark I. Thompson

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I. Procedural Business

Background and Charge. 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 and Adjournment. The meeting of the International Relations Committee was called to order at 11:08 a.m. by Chairperson Sweeney on January 29, 2024, in Room 116 of the State Capitol, Des Moines. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved via email.

II. Senator Nancy Boettger

Ms. Nancy Boettger, former Senator and Chairperson of the International Relations Committee, spoke about the history of the International Relations Committee and the importance of hosting international visitors. The International Relations Committee provides a valuable service to the state by creating a good first impression of the state to international visitors and dignitaries. She also thanked Mr. Bob Lamberti, Legislative Information Officer, for his service to the state and to the committee.

III. Legislative Information Office

Ms. Kelsie Willert, Legislative Information Officer, Legislative Information Office, and Ms. Serena Adams, Legislative Information Officer, Legislative Information Office, provided background about the gifts available to legislators to present to international dignitaries. The committee discussed new gift items for international dignitaries including Iowa scarfs, signature coins, and coin capsules and velvet cases for the coins. Discussion ensued about the purchase of the signature coins, velvet cases, and scarves from moneys in the International Fund (fund).

IV. International Fund

The committee discussed the purpose of the fund. A maximum of \$10,000 is available in the fund on a biennial basis. If the moneys in the fund are not expended during the biennium, the remaining moneys become unavailable for expenditure. The committee discussed that the gifts purchased from moneys in the fund are stored in the gift shop for legislators who bring international visitors to the Capitol and for legislators who go abroad and need gifts for international dignitaries. Representative Andrews explained that gift giving is culturally very important for visitors in certain parts of the world.

V. Taiwan Resolution

The committee discussed the drafting of a resolution supporting Taiwan. A draft resolution by Representative Andrews was distributed and discussed. Representative Andrews stated that the Taiwan resolution is a work in progress. There was discussion about current Taiwan and China relations.

VI. Materials Filed with the Legislative Services Agency

The following materials were distributed at or in connection with the meeting and are filed with the Legislative Services Agency. The materials may be accessed from the link on the committee's website: www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/meetings/documents?committee=661&ga=ALL.



1. Taiwan Resolution