

**Subcommittee on Employee Relations
Legislative Coordinating Commission
Wednesday, September 29, 2004
9:30 a.m.
Room 107 State Capitol**

Present:

Sen. Linda Scheid
Sen. Sandra Pappas
Sen. David Gaither
Rep. Chris DeLaForest
Rep. Bill Haas

Excused:

Sen. Steve Kelley
Sen. Betsy Wergin
Rep. Kent Eken
Rep. Jim Knoblach
Rep. Michael Paymar

Senator Scheid called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. A quorum was not present. Senator Scheid introduced Mr. Bill Tschida, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU). Mr. Tschida introduced Mr. Chris Dale, MnSCU's chief negotiator with the Inter Faculty Organization (IFO).

Review/Approve Collective Bargaining Agreements

Mr. Tschida stated that the IFO tentative agreement was reached on July 1, 2004. He reviewed the highlights of the contract (also outlined in the summary included in member's packets) and stood for questions.

Rep. Chris DeLaForest asked Mr. Dale about insurance provisions being the subject of litigation at one point and he was wondering what the procedural posture of that litigation was at this point. Mr. Dale stated that the case had been dismissed and the temporary injunction that was issued was dissolved by the court.

Rep. Bill Haas asked when the contract would be officially ratified. Mr. Greg Hubinger clarified that since the contracts have been officially presented to the Subcommittee, they can act today. If they approve the contracts, they will go into effect. If they do not approve the contracts, they will not go into effect until a bill is passed. If the Subcommittee does not act today, the contracts would go into effect in 30 days, unless they meet again within 30 days to further discuss the contracts. The final recommendation from the subcommittee would go before the Legislature in January for the contracts to be ratified.

Sen. Scheid introduced Mr. Paul Larson, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Employee Relations (DOER), regarding the Minnesota Law Enforcement Association contract (MLEA). Mr. Larson introduced Ms. Jill Pettis, Compensation Manager for DOER. Mr. Larson gave a brief summary of the MLEA contract, which went to interest arbitration last spring. The main issue that was at dispute was whether or not there would be an across-the-board increase in both years of the contract. The arbitrator sustained the employer's position; no across-the-board increases would be provided. The overall biennial costs for this contract increased by 1.10% and the biennial base increase is 3.69%. The total new money in this contract is approximately \$1.8 million. Mr. Larson stood for questions.

Rep. Haas inquired about the remaining contracts that still need to be negotiated. Mr. Larson stated that the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) rejected the state's offer and elected to go to interest arbitration. Interest arbitration concluded yesterday, September 28. The briefs are due in 30 days and then the arbitrator has 30 days to render his/her decision.

The Minnesota Government Engineer's Council (MGEC) has also rejected the state's offer and there has been no discussion yet as to whether or not they will move to interest arbitration.

A quorum was still not present, so Sen. Scheid recessed the SER meeting and asked the work group members to join in the discussion at the table at approximately 10:00 a.m.

After discussion of the work group, the SER reconvened at approximately 11:20 a.m. A quorum still was not present. Sen. Scheid clarified that the contracts would go into effect in 30 days, unless the Subcommittee met within 30 days to reject them. Rep. Haas added that the Legislature would be ratifying the contracts in January.

There being no further business, the subcommittee adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Senator Linda Scheid, Chair