

**Subcommittee on Employee Relations
Legislative Coordinating Commission
Monday, September 18, 2006
10:00 a.m.
Room 5, State Office Building**

Present:

Rep. Chris DeLaForest
Rep. Debra Hilstrom
Rep. Karen Klinzing
Sen. Linda Scheid
Sen. Sandra Pappas
Sen. Mike McGinn

Excused:

Rep. Bruce Anderson
Rep. Tom Rukavina
Sen. Steve Kelley
Sen. Betsy Wergin

Rep. DeLaForest called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes

Sen. Pappas moved approval of the August 7, 2006, meeting minutes. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Review/Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with Minnesota Nurses Association

Paul Larson, Deputy Commissioner of DOER, introduced himself and Sandi Blaeser, DOER Labor Relations Representative who negotiated the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) contract, which is bargaining Unit 5, representing 765 registered nurses (Dept. of Health, Corrections, Human Services, Veteran's Homes, MnSCU, and the Board of Nursing). Deputy Commissioner Larson stated that this is the first time since 1993-1995 that voluntary settlements have been reached with all of the labor units. There are no interest arbitration cases pending.

Ms. Blaeser highlighted a few of the main components of the contract negotiated for the MNA. She stated that the costs of these increases is approximately \$5.9 million in FY 06-07; 5.3% this biennium and 9.8 to the next biennium's base.

Deputy Commissioner Larson and Ms. Blaeser stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Rep. Hilstrom moved approval of SER-1. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Deputy Commissioner Larson thanked the Subcommittee for their help. Rep. DeLaForest commended both sides of the bargaining table for their good work.

Review/Approve Proposed Amendments to the Office of Higher Education Compensation Plan

Mary Lou Dresbach, Director of Community Outreach, Human Resources and Agency Services, in the Office of Higher Education, reviewed two proposed technical amendments, which are supported by DOER, for the OHE compensation plan. These amendments include adding language that clarifies that benefits for the director of the Office are determined through the Managerial Plan, and reestablishing a class "OHE Division Director (L-1)," which was deleted a few years ago because it had been vacant. The class is in the same salary range as it was when it was deleted. Ms. Dresbach stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Sen. Pappas moved approval of SER-2. **MOTION APPROVED.** Rep. DeLaForest thanked Ms. Dresbach for her testimony.

Other Items Approved By the Chair

Rep. DeLaForest stated that this would be the last time the Subcommittee meets as currently constituted.

Rep. DeLaForest informed members that Rep. Bruce Anderson was absent today due to the recent passing of his wife.

Rep. DeLaForest also thanked Senator Steve Kelley, also absent today, on behalf of the people of Minnesota and the Subcommittee, for his good work.

Rep. DeLaForest reminded the Subcommittee that the gavel will be passed to the Senate in 2007. He thanked the members of the Subcommittee for all their good work and acknowledged that there has been an excellent tradition of civility and bipartisanship, which has been upheld. He also thanked the wonderful staff.

There being no further business, Rep. DeLaForest adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

James Metzen, Chair