

The Ohio Senate

Tom Niehaus, President
Eric Kearney, Minority Leader



*The Ohio House of
Representatives*

William G. Batchelder, Speaker
Armond Budish, Minority Leader

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES
March 14, 2013**

Co-Chair Sykes called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission meeting to order at 2:16pm and asked staff to call the roll. The following members were present:

Janet Gilligan Abaray
Rep. Amstutz
Herb Asher
Speaker Batchelder
Roger L. Beckett
Paula Brooks
Rep. Kathleen Clyde
Jo Ann Davidson
Sen. Keith Faber
Patrick F. Fischer

Judith L. French
Edward Gilbert
Rep. Matt Huffman
Larry L. Macon
Frederick E. Mills
Dennis P. Mulvihill
Rep. Murray
Sen. Larry Obhof
Chad A. Readler
Joseph P. Rugola

Richard B. Saphire
Sen. Michael Skindell
Rep. Vernon Sykes
Robert A. Taft
Sen. Charleta B. Tavares
Kathleen M. Trafford
Richard S. Walinski
Sen. Chris Widener

Staff noted that communication regarding anticipated absences had been received from Senator Cafaro and Karla Bell by the Co-Chairs prior to the meeting.

Co-Chair Sykes asked the members to review and approve the minutes from the February 14, 2013. Senator Skindell moved to accept the minutes and Speaker Davidson seconded the motion. Without objection the minutes from the February meeting were accepted.

Co-Chair Sykes announced that the Co-Chairs had decided to hire Steve Steinglass as the consultant for the Commission. It was noted that the contract for Dean Steinglass will be executed in the coming week and he will be available to assist Commission members with their work.

Co-Chair Sykes asked the Committee Structure and Topics group to give their report to the Commission. Judge Fischer and Senator Skindell gave an updated report that included four standing committees and eight subject matter committees. Each member will serve on one standing committee and two subject matter committees. The recommendation included keeping the ratio of public members to legislative members and to also take into account political party affiliation when the Co-Chairs make the committee assignments. A couple of changes were made to the report and Senator Tavares motioned to accept the report and allow the staff to make the

appropriate changes, Governor Taft seconded the motion. Without objection the revised report of the Committee Structure and Topics group was accepted.

The Co-Chairs requested that each member submit their committee preferences to their offices by 5pm on Friday, March 22nd. Each member should include two standing committees and three subject matter committees in their preferences. A memo from the Co-Chairs will indicate where to send the information and will include a form for submitting the preferences.

Co-Chair Sykes asked the Education and Ethics group to give their report to the Commission. Mr. Walinski and Dr. Macon gave their report and suggested an educational session for the members on the morning of April 11th. They also suggested that the Commission hold an initial public input session at either the May or June meeting. Several changes were suggested to the rules and Mr. Walinski will incorporate the comments and discussion from the meeting and will bring an updated recommendation to the April meeting.

Mr. Steinglass presented the interim public records policy to the Commission. President Faber suggested that an additional paragraph be added to indicate that this policy does not supersede the policy set for the legislative members by the chamber in which they represent. Senator Tavares moved to accept the public records policy with President Faber's suggested change, Senator Skindell seconded the motion. Without objection the interim public records policy was adopted by the Commission.

Mr. Steinglass presented the interim public records retention schedule to the Commission. President Faber suggested that an additional paragraph be added to indicate that this policy does not supersede the policy set for the legislative members by the chamber in which they represent. Ms. Trafford moved to accept the public records retention schedule with President Faber's suggested change, Mr. Mulvihill seconded the motion. Without objection the interim public records retention schedule was adopted by the Commission.

Co-Chair Sykes indicated that Ohio Government Telecommunications would be willing and able to record, broadcast, and/or stream the Commission meetings in the future. Senator Tavares motioned to send this discussion to the Public Education and Information standing committee, President Faber seconded the motion. Without objection the motion was agreed to.

Co-Chair Sykes asked if there was any further business to come before the Commission. Seeing none, the Commission was adjourned.

Speaker William Batchelder
Co-Chair

Rep. Vernon Sykes
Co-Chair