

HUGHES: OK. We have two different functions today, part of it as a-- as the Exec Board; part of it's Referencing Committee. We do have a agenda in front of us. We'll try to adhere to that as closely as possible. You're ready to go, Mandy?

MANDY MIZERSKI: Yeah.

HILGERS: OK, perfect. First up is administrative leave for the Easter holiday. In the past, we've given the Friday and Monday off around Easter, and the staff really likes that. Being a farmer, I've never had a federal holiday, so I do have a little angst about that, but I would entertain a motion to give staff Friday and Monday off around Easter.

SLAMA: So moved.

GEIST: Second.

HUGHES: Senator Slama moved. Senator Geist seconded. Discussion? All those in favor say aye. All opposed? OK, takes care of the first one. So then our second item is to select an Interim Ethics Committee for the Legislature. So we heard the-- we had the hearing on Senator Cavanaugh's LR. We do have a couple of others, LR305 and LR311, kind of dealing with the same. They are doing interim studies, one from Senator Slama and one from Senator DeBoer. After our hearing, I visited with Committee Counsel Satra and asked her to put together something that would kind of incorporate all three that we could appoint some senators to look at that workplace harassment policy and also look at an ethics type of committee or standard or something that they could recommend to the next legislative body. So what you see in the handout that is before us is what Counsel Satra has come up with. It basically creates an interim study by the Executive Board and we will appoint two members, two senators, from each caucus, and I think the lead counsel on that was going to be Legislative Research. Is that correct? Did I miss anything?

JANICE SATRA: The rule allows or suggests that the staff be division staff, and so the original workplace harassment policy was drafted and created by the division directors several years ago, with Marshall Lux being the lead author on that document. And so we thought it might be an opportunity for the division directors to work with this before the committee, come in with a proposal of an ethics committee process, whatever they come up with, in addition to reviewing the workplace harassment policy and determining how those

two might dovetail together, if at all, because we certainly need a separate, I believe, standalone workplace harassment policy, but it could-- you know, there could be some overlap between the two also. So that was-- the recommendation was to use the division-- it says division staff, but probably the division directors would be the best option, with several of them being attorneys also.

HUGHES: And I don't have any-- I-- I don't want to put too many guidelines on this committee. I want them to be able to-- you know, and if they want to reach out to other division directors to help them, because our division directors have a lot of personnel that they manage, too, so I think there's a-- a resource there that could be tapped of management of people to do that, so I'd try to keep it as simple as possible. We'll ask for volunteers to sit on this committee and, at some point before we adjourn, we'll pick six to move forward with this and they'll-- you know, they-- they will have their charge. Speaker Hilgers.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Hughes. In terms of staff involvement, not from a support perspective but from an input perspective, and now what I think we've got is that the safety panel, council for-- where staff have a formal role and they can provide input, is there something like that we could consider?

HUGHES: You know, I'm going to kind of leave it up to the committee. We talked about including some staff. It's one of those things that on the surface it sounds like a really good idea, but when you get into the nuts and bolts of it there are some hurdles that probably need to be overcome. I, you know, I would-- I certainly wouldn't rule that out, but there's-- some thought needs to be given whether they are allowed-- whether they-- whether they're advisory to the committee, someone named specifically advisory to the committee or whether the committee would just, you know, offer to take input from staff, you know, and I'll let counsel discuss that.

JANICE SATRA: I think you'd also-- I mean, again, the division directors would be probably, I mean, developing the drafts, developing a work product for the committee to look at, review, react to. If the committee wants to actually be involved in the drafting, that's great, but usually we have to have somebody take a lead. As for other staff, again, I think that's up to the committee how they want to proceed because, especially with workplace harassment and an ethics committee, there's so many legal things you have to do to make it right, to make it workable, accurate. I just think that that would be down the road a little bit.

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HILGERS: I guess my only-- the reason I raise it is because formalizing a way for staff to provide specific input, I think, is important given the power differential. And these issues often could involve staff, and if it's just senators without formalized input, I worry they wouldn't have input or meaningful input as they consider what changes they might need to-- that-- that was-- that was my thought.

HUGHES: Yeah, I'm-- I'm certainly not opposed to this committee, you know, giving them instruction or whatever, giving them the option, I guess, is probably a better term, to, you know, put the word out for staff input. You know, I-- I definite-- I agree with that. But there is also-- it's not-- nothing's ever simple when you deal with government and personnel. There are certain criteria that has to be met and guidelines that have to be adhered to. So any other thoughts on this proposed--

HILGERS: Are we just discussing it right now or are you actually [INAUDIBLE]

HUGHES: I would-- I would like to move it out of committee so we can put the word out to ask for volunteers of people who want to be on, to serve on this committee. That would be my preference because we are getting down toward the end here.

HILGERS: Sorry. Mandy probably sent this out well in advance. I hadn't had a chance to review it, so I apologize--

HUGHES: I-- we--

HILGERS: [INAUDIBLE]

LOWE: I'll make a motion to move the interim study.

GEIST: And I'll second it.

HUGHES: Moved by Senator Lowe, seconded by Senator Geist. Discussion? Call the roll, please, Mandy.

MANDY MIZERSKI: Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Yes.

MANDY MIZERSKI: Senator Geist.

GEIST: Yes.

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MANDY MIZERSKI: Senator Hughes.

HUGHES: Yes.

MANDY MIZERSKI: Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: Yes.

MANDY MIZERSKI: Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: Yes.

MANDY MIZERSKI: Senator Slama.

SLAMA: Yes.

MANDY MIZERSKI: Speaker Hilgers.

HILGERS: Yes.

HUGHES: OK, very good. Next we will have a short HVAC update from Larry Bare. As you know, the Governor did take some of the funds from the HVAC project. Now, my understanding that the Appropriations Committee is meeting across the hall and someone has to ask for the override of the package or specific line items. This is just for-- since the HVAC does kind of come under our purview, I wanted to get this committee's sense that if the Appropriations Committee does not ask for that line-item veto, whether or not we wanted to or I want to. So, Larry?

LARRY BARE: Yeah, the bottom line is he took out \$14.8 million from the overall HVAC expenses, and what that eliminates then, I suppose, as we look at it, in phase four and five, window updates, stripping of lead paint, carpet replacement, fire and life safety updates, wall, floor, and finishes repairs, plumbing and domestic water repairs would not be done in four and five, where it has been done in one and two, is being done in three, but this would leave four and five to hang out there a little bit.

HUGHES: So four and five are the northeast quadrant and the tower.

LARRY BARE: And the tower, yes.

HUGHES: So basically it's finishing the building the way it was started, if we could keep that money in-- in the--

LARRY BARE: Right.

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HUGHES: --in the budget or in the-- in the--

LARRY BARE: I mean, there is another increase that was brought on by the trouble with getting things shipped and built and brought [INAUDIBLE. That was not touched. It was just this part of it that was red-- reduced by the Governor.

HUGHES: Yeah. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: Larry, to what extent have costs escalated more than the original estimate?

LARRY BARE: Well, this is a difficult place to estimate how things work around here, and that deals not only with people; it deals with the plumbing and everything else, and we miss considerably on three and four and five in terms of those costs, those pro-- those items ran the cost up over what we had.

McCOLLISTER: You have a number?

LARRY BARE: The original estimate for the pro-- HVAC is \$106 million and change. This now is \$116.5 (million) with reduced. And if it was the same for all cost, it would be \$131,296,000.

McCOLLISTER: So we're up \$25 million?

LARRY BARE: Yeah.

McCOLLISTER: Thank you.

HUGHES: So the-- the cost, the cost of remodeling in phase one and two were pretty much on projections?

LARRY BARE: Pretty close.

HUGHES: OK, but three, four and five, because of inflation and COVID and those types of things--

LARRY BARE: Well--

HUGHES: --has changed the dynamic.

LARRY BARE: It was a difficult job to do, estimating accuracy.

HUGHES: Yeah, OK. Any questions-- any other questions from the committee? Senator Lowe.

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LOWE: Thank you, and thanks, Larry, for all you do for the Capitol. What is the timeline of getting to four and five? When are we supposed to?

LARRY BARE: Three should end at the end of next session because, going into this, we had always said we're not going to move people during session. And so the end of this year, they're not going to be ready to finish it. So we'll have to wait until the end of next session, and that should be about the same again unless another virus comes running or whatever. So that would put us at the end of June this next summer, year and a half on phase four and maybe a little more than that for the tower, so three years after the end of it, end of phase three, maybe a little more.

LOWE: Thank you.

HUGHES: OK. Any other questions? I don't-- I'm not asking for any action. I just wanted to give the committee a brief update since it was relevant. OK, then we move on to Referencing, and we will do this while we do that.

LATHROP: Before we do that, can I ask a question?

HUGHES: Yes.

LATHROP: Do you need some sense from the rest of us as to whether or not you want to move to override the veto of that 14?

HUGHES: Any senator can do it. I guess I'm planning on doing it if the--

LATHROP: OK.

HUGHES: --the-- the Appropriations Committee does not.

LATHROP: I just wanted to make sure that that was happening, or I didn't--

HUGHES: Yes.

LATHROP: --know if you needed to know how we felt about that.

HUGHES: I-- I would love to know how you feel but I--

LATHROP: I-- I think you should.

HUGHES: OK. Somebody needs to do that.

McCOLLISTER: I agree.

HUGHES: OK. Anything else on the HVAC?