

A resolution relating to ethical conduct; conduct of Senator Scott Newman.

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct of the Committee on Rules and Administration, in response to complaints submitted by Senators Sandra Pappas, D. Scott Dibble, Kenneth Kelash, and Ron Latz dated January 27, 2011, February 2, 2011, and February 9, 2011, met on February 9, 2011, to consider whether the conduct of Senator Scott Newman in regard to an e-mail sent from Senator Newman's office dated January 20, 2011, and received by Eileen Gavin of the Minnesota Nurses Association that stated he would not see any organization that donated money to or supported his most recent election opponent constituted improper conduct within the meaning of Senate Rule 56.3; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct, meeting in executive session, has found that the complaint states facts that, if true, would support a finding of probable cause that Senate Rule 56.3 was violated, specifically including the description of a policy preventing an individual providing support or donations to a Senator's campaign opponent from obtaining any access or opportunity to meet with the Senator; and

WHEREAS, Senator Newman's testimony at the February 9, 2011, hearing that he did not have any prior knowledge concerning the e-mail dated January 20, 2011, or provide any instruction or policy to his staff regarding the preparation of such an e-mail was truthful and credible;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct:

1. The complaints be dismissed.