



Rules and Administration Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

1:00 PM or 15 Minutes After Session, 1200 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

Minutes

Present: Senator Bobby Joe Champion - Chair, Senator Mary K. Kunesh, Senator Andrew Mathews, Senator Jeremy R. Miller

Absent: No Members Absent

Chair Champion calls the hybrid Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct Meeting to order at 4:28pm conducted in Minnesota Senate Building room 1200 and over zoom broadcast. Chair, Senator Champion: Present Senator Kunesh: Present Senator Mathews: Present Senator Miller: Present A quorum is present

Senator Glenn Gruenhagen - 4/19/23

Chair Champion administered the oath to Senator Maye Quade. Senator Maye Quade affirmed the oath at 4:34pm

A formal introduction of the complaint surrounding the behavior of Senator Glenn Gruenhagen begins at 4:35pm by Senator Maye Quade and ends at 4:38pm.

Chair Champion invites Senator Gruenhagen to the committee dais to direct questions to Senator Maye Quade as the hearing proceeded at 4:38pm

Questions and comments from members of the committee on the formal complaint against Gruenhagen presented by Senator Maye Quade begins at 4:38pm

Chair Champion administered the oath to Senator Gruenhagen. Senator Gruenhagen affirmed the oath at 4:39pm

Following Gruenhagen's affirmed oath, Senator Gruenhagen formally responded to and refuted the allegations made against him by Senator Maye Quade at 4:40pm

Chair Champion invites Senator Maye Quade to the committee dais to direct questions to Senator Gruenhagen as the hearing proceeded.

Questions and comments begin on the formal response brought forth by Gruenhagen.

Chair Champion invites Senator Maye Quade to give final testimony at 6:00pm

Chair Champion invites Senator Gruenhagen to give final testimony at 6:16pm

Chair Champion recommended sending the complaint to the Executive Committee for further discussion pursuant to Senate Rule 55.5 at 6:18pm

Senator Matthews moves that the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct dismiss complaint against Senator Gruenhagen. Motion failed on a divided voice vote at 6:21pm

Senator Kunesh moves to reconvene the Committee to address the Gruenhagen complaint on May 8th, 2024, at 3:00pm. The motion prevailed on a divided voice vote at 6:21pm

Senator Kunesh moved that Senator Glenn Gruenhagen - 4/19/23, be postponed to a date certain May 8th at 3pm. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Senator Nicole Mitchell - 4/24/24

Chair Champion administered the oath to Senator Lucero. Senator Lucero affirmed the oath at 6:22pm

Chair Champion administered the oath to Senator Housley. Senator Housley affirmed the oath at 6:23pm

A formal introduction of the complaint surrounding the behavior of Senator Mitchel begins at 6:23pm by Senator Lucero and Senator Housley and ends at 6:37pm.

Chair Champion invites Senator Mitchell's Lawyer, Bruce Ringstrom Jr. to the committee dais to direct questions to Senator Lucero and Senator Housley as the hearing proceeds at 6:38pm

Questions and comments from members of the committee on the formal complaint against Mitchell begin at 6:39pm and ends at 6:53pm

Chair Champion administers the oath to Bruce Ringstrom Jr. Bruce Ringstrom Jr. Affirmed the vote at 6:54pm

Questions and comments on the formal complaint against Senator Mitchell continue by Bruce Ringstrom Jr. beginning at 6:55pm and ending at 7:07pm

Questions and comments from members of the committee on the formal complaint against Senator Mitchell resume at 7:07pm and ending at 7:08pm

Chair Champion invites Senator Mitchell to come forward to formally respond and refute the allegations made against her by Senator Lucero and Senator Housley at 7:10pm

Chair Champion invites Senator Lucero and Senator Housley to the committee dais to direct questions to Senator Mitchell as the hearing proceeded.

Chair Champion administered the oath to Senator Mitchell's Lawyer, Bruce Ringstrom Jr., prior to presenting Senator Mitchell's formal response. Bruce Ringstrom Jr. affirmed the oath at 7:10pm.

Following the affirmed oath, Senator Mitchell formally responds to the allegations made against her by Senator Lucero and Senator Housley beginning at 7:11pm and ending at 7:22pm.

Questions and comments from members of the committee on the formal response brought forth by Senator Mitchell begins at 7:22pm and ends at 7:41pm

Questions and comments from Senator Lucero, Senator Housley as well as members of the committee on the formal response brought forth by Senator Mitchell begin at 7:41pm and end at 8:18pm

Chair Champion invites Senator Lucero and Senator Housley to give final testimony at 8:19pm

Chair Champion invites Senator Mitchell to give final testimony at 8:24pm

Senator Miller moves that the Subcommittee on Ethics adjourns and reconvenes Wednesday, 5/8 at 1:00pm to take up both the Gruenhagen and Mitchell complaint at 8:27pm. The motion is divided 2-2 via voice vote

Senator Kunesh moves that the complaint on Senator Mitchell be deferred until a criminal finding occurs at 8:29pm. The motion is divided 2-2 via voice vote.

Senator Miller moves that the Subcommittee finds that there is probable cause that the violations outline in the Senator Mitchell complaint occurred at 8:36pm. The motion is divided 2-2 via voice vote.

Chair Champion moves that the subcommittee defer action on the Mitchell complaint until June 18th at 8:38. The motion is divided 2-2 via voice vote.

Senator Mathews moves that the committee recess for ten minutes. The motion prevails and the committee is in recess until 8:50pm.

Senator Champion calls the committee to order at 8:52pm

Senator Mathews moves that the subcommittee on ethics finds no probable cause that the violations outline in the Senator Mitchell complaint occurred at 8:54pm. Senator Mathews request a roll call vote, a roll call is granted

Chair, Senator Champion: **Nay**

Senator Kunesh: **Nay**

Senator Mathews: **Nay**

Senator Miller: **Nay**

With 0 Ayes and 4 Nays, the motion does not prevail

Senator Miller moves that the Subcommittee on Ethics comes back tomorrow at 4pm in the executive committee at 8:56pm. The motion is divided via a 2-2 voice vote

Senator Miller moves that the Subcommittee on ethics goes into executive committee now at 8:57pm. The motion prevails via voice vote and the Subcommittee on Ethics moves into executive committee at 8:58pm.

Senator Champion calls the subcommittee on ethics back to order at 9:23pm.

Senator Champion renews a motion to adjourn and reconvene until June 12th at 11am or if material development on this complaint develops that warrants the committee to take further action on this complaint.

Having voted 2-2 on all options for action before the subcommittee, the subcommittee will not take further action on this complaint unless there is a material development that warrants additional consideration.

Senator Champion moved that Senator Nicole Mitchell - 4/24/24, be postponed to a date certain June 12th at 11 am or if material development on this complaint develops that warrants the committee to take further action on this complaint. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm



Senator Bobby Joe Champion, Chair



Alexis Varner, Legislative Assistant