



North Dakota Ethics Commission Special Meeting

Minutes of June 03, 2025

600 E Boulevard Ave, Room 321, Bismarck and MS Teams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ward Koeser at 10:03 a.m. The following members of the Ethics Commission were also present: Commissioners Ron Goodman, Cynthia Lindquist and Murray Sagsveen, and General Counsel Logan Carpenter.
2. **Discussion of Advisory Opinion Request No. 25-02:** GC Carpenter provided an update on Advisory Opinion Request No. 25-02. Senator Ryan Braunberger made the request for an advisory opinion. The request was regarding his invitation to participate in a panel discussion at the Center for Freethought Equality's Annual Members Meeting in Chicago, he was also asked to speak at the American Humanists Association's Annual Conference. The organization will cover the registration, lodging, and travel costs. GC Carpenter advised on the specifics and summarized the draft opinion.

The Commission discussed concerns with the definition of gift and if all travel expenses are unquestionably gifts. The Commission discussed potentially revisiting the gift rule to clarify the definition of lobbying with this in mind.

Motion: Commissioner Lindquist motioned to approve the draft language and issue advisory opinion 25-02 to the requesters and for publication on the Commission's website. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Vice Chair Koeser called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

3. **Executive Session:** The Commission entered executive session during the general meeting at 10:33 a.m. to discuss Complaint No. 25-70. Information regarding the content and parties to a complaint to the Ethics Commission is confidential. The following participants entered the executive session: Vice Chair Koeser, Commissioners Ron Goodman, Cynthia Lindquist, and Murray Sagsveen, and General Counsel Logan Carpenter.

Executive Session ended at 10:37 a.m. and all participants returned to the regular meeting.

During the Executive Session, the Commission discussed Complaint Nos. 25-70.

After Executive session, the following motions were made:

Motion: Commissioner Goodman moved to direct Executive Director Binstock to summarily dismiss Complaint No. 25-70 for a lack of personal jurisdiction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sagsveen. Vice Chair Koeser called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m. The next special meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., livestreamed with MS Teams. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., livestreamed with MS Teams.

Approved on 8/18/2025



Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission