

Compensation Council

March 5, 2021

Remote Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Kathy Brown
Richard Cohen
Sean Dowse
James Fox
Peter Gregory
Noah Hobbs
Sam Kaplan
Amanda Matchett
Kathleen Meyerle
Bob Meyerson
Gail Olson
Scott Van Binsbergen
Charlie Weaver
Nick Zerwas

Members Excused:

David Asp
Annie Deckert

Sam Kaplan, Chair, called the remote meeting of the Compensation Council to order at 9:32 AM. A quorum was present.

Keith Ellison, Attorney General, addressed the Council.

Approval of Minutes

Gail Olson moved approval of the minutes from the February 19, 2021 meeting. Seconded.
THE MOTION PREVAILED.

National Judicial Compensation Comparisons

Mary McQueen, President, National Center for State Courts, presented an overview of the 2021 Survey of Judicial Salaries.

Minnesota District Judges Association Presentation

John Hoffman, President of the Minnesota District Judge's Association (MDJA), presented a general overview of the MDJA and spoke to judges' compensation.

Judge Lois Conroy, Vice President of the MDJA, presented on the workload for judges and also spoke to issues related to the recruitment of judges.

Jonathan Jasper, Chair of MDJA Pensions and Benefits Committee, presented on the compensation of judges and made introductory comments related to the 2020 Minnesota Judicial State Court Salaries report.

Dr. Kristine West, Associate Professor of Economics, St. Catherine's University, and Libby Kula, Applied Economics PhD Student, University of Minnesota, presented an overview of the analysis they conducted on Minnesota judicial salaries titled "Minnesota Judicial State Court Salaries".

Chair Kaplan called a recess at 11:04 AM.

Chair Kaplan called the meeting back to order at 11:13 AM.

Discuss and determine recommendations

Members reviewed and discussed three possible recommendations for the constitutional officers salaries. The options reviewed were a 3% increase; salaries if adjusted for inflation since 2003; and the Compensation Council's 2019 recommended salaries. Two informal polls were taken on the three options. The majority present preferred option one.

Members continued to discuss varying recommendations based on the options presented and requested additional data.

Due to time constraints, it was determined the Council would meet on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 1:00 PM to continue to discuss and determine recommendations for constitutional officers' salaries, judicial salaries and agency head salary ranges.

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 PM.