



Utah Supreme Court's Oversight Committee for the Office of Professional Conduct

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2025

Meeting held through Webex and in person

Matheson Courthouse

Judicial Council Room

450 S. State St.

Salt Lake City, UT 84111

4:30–5:30 p.m.

Arthur B. Berger, presiding

Attendees:

Arthur Berger, Chair

Mark Hindley

Aeryn Murphy

Roger Smith

Lara Swensen

Elizabeth Wright, Ex-officio member

Guests:

Christine Greenwood, Office of Professional Conduct

Nathan Severin, Utah State Bar Finance Director

Staff:

Nick Stiles, Appellate Court Administrator

Amber Griffith, Recording Secretary

Excused:

Eric Jenkins

Judge Laura Scott

Margaret Plane

1. **Welcome and Approval of March 25, 2025 minutes:** (Arthur Berger)

Arthur Berger welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes from the March 25, 2025 meeting.

Mark Hindley moved to approve the minutes. Lara Swensen seconded that motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Discussion – OPC Proposed Budget: (Christine Greenwood, Nathan Severin)

Christine Greenwood introduced Nathan Severin the Utah State Bar Finance Director. Mr. Severin then explained the budget as it appeared on the screen. Mr. Severin stated that the sheet listed the actual budget totals for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024. It also listed the projected budget for the current fiscal year, 2025, and the projected final budget for fiscal year 2026.

Mr. Severin began by explaining the revenue that the OPC receives from the OPC Ethics School and Trust Accounting School. That revenue increased in 2025 due to an increase in the price for the schools and attendance rate.

- Roger Smith questioned whether the classes for 2025 have concluded or if the amount listed for 2025 was projected. Ms. Greenwood confirmed that all classes have concluded.

Mr. Severin then discussed the projected expense increases for 2026. There is an increase of just around \$8,000 in travel costs which is due to Ms. Greenwood prioritizing education for employees.

- Mr. Smith noted a new meeting listed named ABA Mid Year Meeting. Ms. Greenwood stated that the OPC would be sending one attorney to that conference. Additionally, the OPC will be allowing each attorney to attend one to two conferences a year.

Mr. Severin also noted that Salaries & Benefits have a projected increase as Ms. Greenwood continues to make market adjustments to employee salaries.

- Mr. Smith asked if the budget is anticipating a new hire. Mr. Severin replied that the budget does not include money for any new hires. Ms. Greenwood confirmed that unfortunately the OPC will have to wait to hire any additional attorneys. Ms. Wright added that the Bar is hoping for a licensing fee increase this next budget year which could help fund an additional attorney for the OPC.
- Lara Swensen questioned why retirement decreased. Mr. Severin explained that it was due to turnover and added that the Bar only adds funds to retirement after an employee has been with the Bar for one year.

Mr. Severin then informed the Committee that the new data system that the OPC needs will cost less than anticipated. They had reserved \$30,000 for the system but they believe it will only end up costing \$10,000.

- Mark Hindley noted an increase of 325% in computer supplies and small equipment. Mr. Severin stated that it was for replacement computers for staff.

Lastly Mr. Severin noted an increase in building overhead which was seen across the entire Bar and asked if there were any questions from the Committee.

- Mr. Berger asked if there was anything that the Committee could do that would be helpful. Ms. Greenwood replied that following the Committee's previous meeting she has been thinking of ways that the OPC could possibly increase revenue. One possibility would be to seek costs if OPC is the prevailing party, but OPC doesn't incur too many expenses throughout their cases. Ms. Wright also noted that the OPC isn't intended to be a revenue-making department. Mr. Smith asked if charging for the discipline reports would help with the number of requests that they receive. Ms. Greenwood stated that it would stay steady as the requests are typically for people applying for pro hac vice or to apply for a judge position opening.
- Ms. Swensen asked if the Bar had any reserves that the OPC could use to help until the licensing fee increase happens. Ms. Greenwood replied that the OPC has already used a stop gap that went towards salary increases for current staff. Mr. Severin added that their current projections already show that they may be out of reserves soon.

Following this discussion Mr. Hindley moved to approve the proposed budget for OPC's fiscal year 2026. Mr. Smith seconded that motion, and it unanimously passed.

3. New/old business:

Arthur Berger informed the Committee that Christine Greenwood will be presenting proposed rule amendments at the next committee meeting which will be scheduled at a later date.

The meeting then adjourned.