

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2011
Governor's Large Conference Room
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD

Members Present

Pam Roberts, Chair
Carol Hinderaker
Paul Aylward
Homer Harding
David Owen
Mark Merchen
Bob Riter, Jr.

Members Absent

Rob Anderson
Jason Dilges

Others Present

Don Kattke
Pauline Heier
Monica Harding
Dawn Dovre
Aaron Arnold
Shawn Lyons
Julie Johnson
Bob Mercer
Deb Mortenson
Mark Anderson
Bob O'Connell
Lindsey Riter-Rapp
Clayton Walker
Jeremiah Murphy
Michele Brich
Rep. Susan Wismer
Chet Brokaw
Tim Dougherty

Chairwoman Roberts called the meeting to order, and roll call was taken by Pauline Heier. A quorum was present.

Mark Merchen MOVED to approve the October 5, 2010, minutes. Homer Harding SECONDED. Motion Carried.

Pauline Heier gave a presentation on the current financial status of the State UI Trust Fund and the UI projections for 2011. The Council discussed the current financial status of the State UI Trust Fund.

Chairwoman Roberts reviewed the items for Council consideration in 2011. The list included establishing a 2011 Trust Fund target, changing the interest charges to negative account employers, reinstating the 2009 tax table, and reviewing the hold harmless clause.

Chairwoman Roberts opened the floor for public comment.

Shawn Lyons representing the South Dakota Retailer's Association asked for clarification on the requirements needed to receive the extended training benefits. Lyons also asked if there is any direct cost to employers.

Lindsey Riter-Rapp representing the National Federal of Independent Business/South Dakota asked the Council their position on the additional 26 weeks of training benefits for those in approved training. This topic was added to the list of discussion items for 2011.

Julie Johnson of Absolutely! Aberdeen encouraged the Council to review the mandatory four quarter surcharge provision.

Jeremiah Murphy asked if the \$24 million federal loan has been paid and if the \$11.8 million in federal stimulus funds would need to be paid back at some point in the future. The loan was repaid in June 2010.

Chairwoman Roberts closed the floor to public comment and opened the floor to discussion among the Council members.

Chairwoman Roberts discussed anticipated legislation during the 2011 session. One bill would allow military spouses to receive unemployment benefits if they quit their job due to their spouse's military transfer. The second bill would revise the time period for computing UI tax rate notices from calendar year to fiscal year.

David Owen MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Mark Merchen SECONDED. Motion Carried.