

JSCRS-MC-4

(Wis. 10/15/97)

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**RETIREMENT RESEARCH DIRECTOR REPLACEMENT DISCUSSION**

(Agenda Item 6)

Mr. Dave Stella, Department of Employee Trust Funds, briefed the Committee on the interview process leading up to a recommendation for a new Director of Retirement Research to replace Mr. Blair Testin. Mr. Stella explained that eleven resumes were received by the Department of Employment Relations, and seven people were chosen to be interviewed. Of the seven that were initially interviewed, three were selected for the final interview process. The interview panel felt one candidate was extremely qualified--Mr. Scott Dennison, an actuary from West Virginia. The panel recommends that Mr. Dennison be hired to replace Mr. Blair Testin as the Director of Retirement Research starting on Monday, December 1, 1997.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Senator Grobschmidt called the meeting into Executive Session and asked the Committee Clerk to recall the roll.

Present: (8) Sen. Grobschmidt, Ms. Hamblen, Mr. Heineck,  
Rep. Klusman, Sen. Rude, Rep. Schneider,  
Mr. Stella, Sen. Wirch.

Absent: (1) Rep. Jeskewitz.

Vacancy: (1) Taxpayer Representative.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ON SENATE BILL 257**

(Agenda Item 3)

**Senator Wirch moved, seconded by Representative Klusman, to recommend Senate Bill 257 as good public policy.**

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Roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: (9) Sen. Grobschmidt, Ms. Hamblen, Mr. Heineck,  
Rep. Jeskewitz, Rep. Klusman, Sen. Rude,  
Rep. Schneider, Mr. Stella, Sen. Wirch.

Noes: (0)

Vacancy: (1) Taxpayer Representative.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ON ASSEMBLY BILL 118**  
(Agenda Item 4)

Representative Klusman moved, seconded by Representative Schneider, to recommend Assembly Bill 118, if amended by LRBa0726, as good public policy.

Roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: (9) Sen. Grobschmidt, Ms. Hamblen, Mr. Heineck,  
Rep. Jeskewitz, Rep. Klusman, Sen. Rude,  
Rep. Schneider, Mr. Stella, Sen. Wirch.

Noes: (0)

Absent: (1) Taxpayer Representative.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ON RRC DIRECTOR REPLACEMENT**  
(Agenda Item 6)

Representative Klusman informed the Committee again that the interview panel recommends Mr. Scott Dennison of West Virginia be hired to replace Mr. Blair Testin as Director of Retirement Research. Representative Klusman indicated that he would have a two-year probationary period and his salary would be determined by the Department of Employment Relations.

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**Representative Klusman moved, seconded by Mr. Stella, to name Mr. Scott Dennison as the new Director of Retirement Research.**

Roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: (9) Sen. Grobschmidt, Ms. Hamblen, Mr. Heineck,  
Rep. Jeskewitz, Rep. Klusman, Sen. Rude,  
Rep. Schneider, Mr. Stella, Sen. Wirch.

Noes: (0)

Vacancy: (1) Taxpayer Representative.

**Motion carried by roll call vote.**

**OTHER MATTERS**

(Agenda Item 7)

Representative Klusman informed the Committee that Mr. Walter Scott from Oshkosh has been appointed by the Governor to replace Ms. Susan Fisher as the Public Member/Taxpayer Representative.

The Co-Chairs scheduled the next meeting of the JSCRS for Monday, October 27, 1997, at 2:30 p.m. to review an actuarial study prepared by Mr. Norman Jones of Gabriel, Roeder, Smith, and Company.

**ADJOURNMENT**

(Agenda Item 8)

The meeting of the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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Debra Breggeman, Recording Secretary



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

November 17, 1999

Mr. Scott L. Dennison, LSA, MAAA  
Retirement Research Director  
110 East Main Street, Room 722  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Scott:

The purpose of this letter is to formally accept your resignation as Retirement Research Director, effective at the end of the day on Tuesday, November 30, 1999.

For your information, pursuant to s. ER 21.04 (1), Wis. Adm. Code, for payroll purposes, your termination date will be extended to use up any unused annual, personal or holiday leave time you have remaining on November 30, 1999, unless you request a lump sum payment for all or part of any such remaining leave.

We wish you the best in your new consulting business.

Sincerely,

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Senator Robert W. Wirch  
Cochairperson  
Joint Survey Committee on Retirement  
Systems

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Representative Daniel P. Vrakas  
Cochairperson  
Joint Survey Committee on Retirement  
Systems



**State of Wisconsin**

**JOINT SURVEY COMMITTEE ON RETIREMENT SYSTEMS  
RETIREMENT RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

Scott L. Dennison, FSA, MAAA  
Director of Retirement Research  
110 E. Main Street, Room 722  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 267-0507  
Fax: (608) 267-0675

November 16, 1999

E-mail: scott.dennison@rrc.state.wi.us

Senator Robert W. Wirth  
Room 310 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Daniel P. Vrakas  
Room 119 West, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems that I am resigning from my position as Retirement Research Director effective two weeks from today at the end of day on Tuesday, November 30, 1999.

It is my intention to establish a consulting business.

My experience during my two years working for the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems has been gratifying and rewarding. I wish to thank the committee and the legislature generally for the opportunity you have given me to serve the State of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott L. Dennison".

Scott L. Dennison, FSA, MAAA  
Retirement Research Director

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State of Wisconsin

JOINT SURVEY COMMITTEE ON RETIREMENT SYSTEMS  
RETIREMENT RESEARCH COMMITTEE

November 16, 1999

Senator Robert W. Wirsch  
Room 310 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Daniel P. Vrakas  
Room 119 West, State Capitol  
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Scott L. Dennison, FSA, MAAA  
Director of Retirement Research  
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Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 267-0507  
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E-mail: scott.dennison@rrc.state.wi.us

Gentlemen:

My main regret in leaving my position as your research director at this time is that I have not had time to complete the Retirement Research Committee's "1998 Comparative Study of Major Public Employee Retirement Systems". I was very much looking forward to doing that report.

This biennial survey of state retirement systems is unique in this nation, providing more detailed and helpful information on provisions of the 85 retirement systems it surveys than any other report of its type. Judging from the phone calls this office receives from around the country, the survey is a vital tool in the retirement planning of most state legislatures.

My intention was to write the report exactly as Blair Testin wrote it, adding only one more exhibit: a table comparing relative pension levels of the 85 plans on an standardized basis. This means that differences due to Social Security integration (e.g., Virginia's plan) and different final average earnings periods would be translated to the basis used by the Wisconsin Retirement System. Cost-of-living or dividend features would also be translated to a common basis in order to make a fair comparison of pension benefits. Other than this one addition to the study, I had not planned to change anything that Blair developed, except to produce the report using Excel spreadsheets and make these available on diskette to those wanting it.

If the Joint Survey Committee wishes, I would be glad to finish this report on a consulting basis, just as Blair did for the 1996 report. He estimates that this would require 120 hours of my time, and I am willing to contract to do this for \$60 per hour.

Please let me know whether the committee is interested in this proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott L. Dennison".

Scott L. Dennison, FSA, MAAA  
Retirement Research Director



STEPHEN R. MILLER  
CHIEF

# State of Wisconsin

## LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

100 NORTH HAMILTON STREET

P. O. BOX 2037

MADISON, WI 53701-2037

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REFERENCE SECTION: (608) 266-0341  
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October 13, 1999

Senator Chuck Chvala, Senate Majority Leader  
Representative Scott Jensen, Speaker of the Assembly

Gentlemen:

I have followed with interest recent developments relating to the staff of the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems. The committee and its staff perform a valuable service to the legislature and to the state of Wisconsin. While the legislature can rely on the Department of Employee Trust Funds to competently administer the state retirement system, it will always need an independent source for accurate information about the system and well-researched analyses of proposals affecting the system. Such proposals often bear high price tags and affect hundreds of thousands of people, and therefore deserve careful attention.

Moreover, those who conduct actuarial analyses must do so with the legislature's particular information needs in mind. Often, the staff will analyze options papers that describe various policy proposals. But because the legislature and its committees do their work by passing bills, the staff should include a focus on bills when possible. Actuarial science is not fiscal analysis but a unique blend of mathematics, statistics, demographics, finance, law, and public policy development. An actuarial analysis must be presented in an absolutely nonpartisan manner, with promptness, exceptional clarity, and sensitivity to the legislative process. Combining actuarial and legal support would improve the services provided to the committee.

Therefore, if you consider restructuring the staffing for the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems and the Retirement Research Committee, I suggest that you consider transferring the function to the Legislative Reference Bureau. The function fits our mission of providing information and analysis in a non-partisan manner to support the legislature's law-making and policy-making responsibilities. The LRB attorneys already provide legal counsel to this committee. The LRB can also deliver a high level of research, library, and editorial support services to the committee. We can cover the necessary administrative support. I believe we could provide these improved services at the current funding level. The change would be good for the LRB as well, involving it more directly in the legislative process on these important issues. Finally, I have experience with oversight of actuarial reviews, having performed this kind of work for ten years in my prior position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Miller".

Steve Miller  
267-2175