



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Public Minutes of February 2019 Commission Meeting

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service (the Commission) held a meeting on February 20-22, 2019, at the Commission's offices in Arlington, VA, and at other locations in the vicinity. Portions of this meeting concerned organizational and other pre-decisional and deliberative matters and were closed to the public pursuant to Public Law 114-328, section 554(b)(3).

Attendance

Commissioners present:

- Mr. Edward Allard
- Mr. Steve Barney (as indicated on Feb. 20; all day on Feb. 21-22)
- The Honorable Dr. Janine Davidson (as indicated on Feb. 20; all day on Feb. 21-22)
- The Honorable Mark Gearan (telephonically on Feb. 20)
- The Honorable Avril Haines (only on Feb. 21-22)
- The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck
- Ms. Jeanette James
- Mr. Alan Khazei
- Mr. Thomas Kilgannon
- Ms. Shawn Skelly
- The Honorable Debra Wada

Staff present:

- Kent Abernathy, Executive Director
- Paul Lekas, General Counsel
- Jill Rough, Director of Research and Analysis
- Keri Lowry, Director of Government Affairs and Public Engagement
- Peter Morgan, Director of Operations
- Other Commission staff

February 20, 2019

Business Meeting

From approximately 0900 to 0920 ET, the Commission convened at its offices in Arlington, VA, for a business meeting. All Commissioners except for Ms. Haines attended, with Vice Chair Gearan and Dr. Davidson attending by telephone. The Chairman moved to close this and other business meetings to occur on February 20-22, 2019, because pre-decisional and organizational matters would be deliberated. A motion was made and seconded, and all Commissioners present agreed.

Chairman Heck moved to approve minutes from the January 2019 Commission meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the January 2019 minutes as presented.

Mr. Abernathy then briefed the Commission on logistics for the February 21 public hearings. Chairman Heck provided additional input about public hearings.

Commissioners then provided updates on engagements since the January meeting. On February 14, Mr. Kilgannon spoke to America's Service Commissions. He provided an overview of the Commission and then participated, with staff, in a discussion with participants. Chairman Heck reported participating in a panel discussion with CNCS CEO Barbara Stewart at a Corps Network event. He also conducted an interview with a radio station in Louisiana. Vice Chair Wada delivered a keynote address at the conference for the California School Personnel Commissioners Association, an organization of employees for the education districts in California.

Commission Discussion on Growing National Service

Following the business meeting, Commissioners held a discussion on growing national service from 0920 to 1030 ET. Commissioners Allard, Heck, James, Khazei, Kilgannon, Skelly, and Wada participated in person, while Vice Chair Gearan participated over the phone.

Content for March Hearings – Part 1

From approximately 1045-1135 ET, Vice Chair Gearan briefed the Commission on policy options under consideration by the Propensity to Serve Work Group.

Logistics for February Hearings

From approximately 1135 to 1150 ET, staff briefed the Commission about administrative aspects of the February 22 public hearings.

Engagement Update

From 1200 to 1330 ET, Ms. Lowry and members of the Government Affairs and Public Engagement (GPE) team presented to the Commissioners the overarching goals and plans for 2019.

Work Group Deliberation

From 1330 to 1500 ET, Commissioners met in Work Groups to deliberate issues concerning the matters within the scope of their respective Work Groups. Accounts of these sessions are set forth in internal memoranda for the record (MFRs).

Content for March Hearings – Part 2

The Commission reconvened at 1510 ET for a continuation of Vice Chair Gearan’s discussion of national service policy options. Mr. Barney arrived to join eight other Commissioners in person, with Vice Chair Gearan participating by phone. The session concluded at approximately 1520 ET.

Commission Discussion on Merging Mandates

From 1520 to 1555 ET, Dr. Rough and the research team led a conversation on the concept of a lifetime of service and different service opportunities that are available to individuals at each stage of their life.

February 21, 2019

Public Hearing: Inspiring Universal Service Across America

In the morning of February 21, 2019, the Commission convened at the Claudio Grossman Hall at the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, DC, for a public hearing on Inspiring Universal Service Across America. Panelists included Tom Chabolla, President of Jesuit Volunteer Corps; Dr. Robert Grimm, Director of Do Good Institute at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy; Jeff West, Global Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Lead at IBM; and Teresa Walch, National Vice President of Training and Quality Improvement for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. A live stream of the hearing is available on the Commission’s Facebook page.

Public Hearing: Should Service be Mandatory?

In the afternoon of February 21, 2019, the Commission convened at the Claudio Grossman Hall at the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, DC, for a public hearing on whether service should be mandatory. Panelists included Doug Bandow, a Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute; Dr. William Galston, the Extra K. Zilkha Chair and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; Ted Hollander, an author; and Lucy Steigerwald, an author. A live stream of the hearing is available on the Commission’s Facebook page.

Public Hearing Logistics Debrief

At the conclusion of the public hearings, the Commission convened nearby for a twenty-minute debrief focused on the logistical elements of the hearings. All Commissioners, except for Vice Chair Gearan, were present during the discussion.

February 22, 2019

Public Hearing Content Debrief

From approximately 0800 to 0950 ET, Chairman Heck led the Commission in a review of the testimony received the prior day and its bearing on the issues facing the Commission's work in 2019, with a view to narrowing down policy recommendations. All Commissioners, except for Vice Chair Gearan, were present during the discussion.

Work Group Briefs

From approximately 1015 to 1215 ET, each of the three Work Groups provided an update on its progress to the full Commission. These updates were provided by Mr. Barney, for the Propensity to Serve Work Group; Vice Chair Wada, for the Selective Service System Work Group, and Ms. Haines, for the Ends, Ways, and Means Work Group.

Executive Session

From approximately 1230 to 1330 ET, Commissioners held an executive session outside the presence of staff.

Commission Discussion on Ends, Ways, and Means Proposal

From 1330 to 1440 ET, Commissioners Allard, Barney, Heck, James, Haines, Khazei, Kilgannon, Skelly, and Wada convened for an internal deliberation on proposals under consideration by the Ends, Ways, Means Work Group. Ms. Haines led this discussion.

Prepared by Paul Lekas, General Counsel

Adopted by the Commission on March 27, 2019