

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

1:00 PM

IMRP Conference Room, Downtown Campus

Central Connecticut State University

New Britain, CT

Members Present: John Santa (chair); Vivien K. Blackford (phone); Atty. Kevin Kane; and Atty. Thomas J. Ullmann.

Staff: Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), and Atty. Leland Moore (Staff)

Also Participating: Maureen Price-Boreland and Andrew Clark

MINUTES

I. MEETING CONVENED

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:21 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 3.22.16 MEETING

The minutes of the March 22nd, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

III. STRATEGIC ACTION PLANNING

a. Voting Procedures

Maureen Price-Boreland and Atty. Moore presented their proposal outlining changes to the Commission's voting procedures. Although the committee indicated that it found the outlined procedures favorable, it was decided that:

- (1) a rationale should be provided for each change,
- (2) the minimum required for recommending policy changes should be a supermajority with dissenting opinions noted, however, the voting procedures should reflect commission's preference for consensus,
- (3) the quorum required for voting at a meeting of the Sentencing Commission should be a simple majority of all Commission members,
- (4) the supermajority required for the adoption of resolutions concerning policy changes should be a supermajority of the entire membership of the Sentencing Commission rather than a supermajority of those individuals present and

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voting at a given meeting, and
(5) the procedures should be incorporated into a set of bylaws.

It was agreed that Ms. Price-Boreland and Attorney Moore would draft proposed bylaws for the next meeting incorporating these concepts.

b. Committee Structure

The committee discussed the value of allowing non-commission members to serve on and/or be qualified to vote on ad hoc committees. No consensus was reached on this particular issue. The committee also discussed the proposal to eliminate all standing committees—with the exception of the steering committee—and move to a model with ad hoc committees created to accomplish a specific task within a specific time frame. Although there was general support for this new model, several committee members expressed concerns.

It was agreed that Andrew Clark would draft proposed changes to the Commission's committee structure that included a rationale for each change. The committee asked Mr. Clark to present this material at the next meeting.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Tsarkov provided an update on the Commission's 2016 legislative proposals.

V. BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Tsarkov updated the committee on the Sentencing Commission's budget for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. It was noted that the budget provided by the legislature was inadequate to support the continued function of the Commission and that outside funds would need to be sought for the work to continue. Mr. Tsarkov indicated that he is in the process of drafting a development plan and will present it at the next committee meeting.

VI. RESEARCH UPDATE

a. Pretrial Release and Detention

Mr. Tsarkov provided an update on Commission's evaluation of pretrial release and detention. Committee members discussed the evaluation at length.

b. Diversionary Programs

Mr. Tsarkov provided a brief update on the status of this study.

c. Sex Offender Study

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Atty. Ullmann provided an update on the work of the special committee on sex offenders.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for late May.

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Santa adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m.