

Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut

Friday, April 5, 2019

Members Present: Carl Amento, Tom Banisch (alternate), John Filchak, Sam Gold, Martin Heft, Tommy Hyde, James O'Leary, Neil O'Leary (Chair), Lon Seidman, Scott Shanley, Ron Thomas, Lyle Wray (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Maureen Brummett, Sen. Stephen Cassano, Kathleen Demsey, Barbara Henry, Marcia Leclerc, Leo Paul, Lee Sawyer, Joyce Stille

ACIR staff: Bruce Wittchen

NOTE: This is a preliminary draft of the minutes and a more detailed, amended draft will be available later.

1. Call to Order

Commission chair Neil O'Leary called the meeting to order at 10:35.

2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the March 1, 2019 meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 3/1/2019 minutes and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. UConn Department of Public Policy: Research Capabilities & Opportunities

Commission chair Neil O'Leary introduce Dr. Mohamad Alkadry of [UConn's Department of Public Policy](#). Dr. Alkadry began his presentation by describing the department's degree and certificate programs. He also explained the department's internship and professional practice programs, as well as its various partnerships. He pointed out the variety of collaboration opportunities and there was a lengthy discussion of public policy issues ACIR members believe should be addressed and how Dr Alkadry thinks the group and others might try to proceed.

5. Old Business

a. 2019 Legislative Session

Commission chair Neil O'Leary recommended the group skip ahead to Item 5 while OPM Undersecretary Jonathan Harris is available to discuss the legislative session. There was a discussion of [HB 7192](#) and [SB 1072](#), with John Filchak explaining changes he would make to the identical ACIR-related language in each. There was a lengthy discussion regarding those and other proposed changes with OPM Undersecretary Jonathan Harris.

Commission member James O'Leary asked if Commission chair Neil O'Leary would entertain a motion to support the continued inclusion of legislative leadership in selecting members of the ACIR. Commission chair Neil O'Leary said he would and Commission member James O'Leary made that motion, seconded by Commission member Thomas. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. There was further discussion of the strategies for balancing the goals of broad representation on the membership and to maintain an appropriately-sized groups.

4. Updates on ACIR reports

ACIR annual report: 2017-2019

The group returned to agenda item 4, which had been skipped earlier, and Bruce Wittchen described the preparation of single "annual" report to cover the past two years, while including a work plan as directed by the current language of the pending bills discussed earlier. He said he will be looking for members' feedback on a preliminary draft at the next meeting and there was a discussion of that work plan being organized as a general framework that can be amended later..

5. Old Business

b. Other Municipal, Regional, or State Matters

There was no discussion of other municipal, regional, or state matters.

6. New Business

a. Future Meeting Topics and/or Invitations

There was a discussion of inviting someone from the [Federal Reserve Bank of Boston](#) (FRBB) to attend an upcoming meeting. Commission vice-chair Wray said he would reach out to someone and noted that the FRBB tends to plan its research efforts 1-2 years in advance. There was further discussion of future work and Commission chair Neil O'Leary asked members to provide any feedback about the 2019-2020 work plan or about workgroup assignments to Bruce Wittchen.

b. Other

There was no further discussion.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13

Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM