

their higher education program's experiences with censorship at Danville Correctional Center. Legal advocates testified on the legality surrounding prison censorship, pointed out the lack of clear censorship criteria, and expressed their disappointment in Danville Correctional Center's handling of the issue. Finally, acting IDOC director Rob Jeffries assured listeners that IDOC would be overhauling its policies completely and emphasized his commitment to programs that are essential to reentry and cultivating a good prison environment.

"Your description of how you spent your first days on the job, talking directly to both staff and inmates with your hands-on approach... that struck me," said Rep. Cassidy in support of Director Jeffries' approach to his new position. "We've always heard that corrective measures couldn't be taken in the IDOC because we didn't have the money. That is our problem. It's something I pledge to be a partner with you on. The opportunity to take a rehabilitative lens to this program is something I welcome."

As of Tuesday, the EJP was informed by a Danville staff member that the remaining books had been approved and returned to the community library. Moving forward, IDOC has pledged to update its outdated policy and take a more direct approach to eliminate prison censorship. Goals include hiring a volunteer coordinator to set expectations for how volunteer programs should operate and establishing an internal and centralized review process.

On the news, EJP executive director Dr. Rebecca Ginsberg commented, "I am delighted that the Education Justice Project's library collection at Danville Correctional Center has been restored to what it was in January 2019. We regret that it took so long for the books to be returned for use by incarcerated students. However, the testimony of Acting Director Rob Jeffries gives us confidence that the University of Illinois and IDOC can build an even stronger relationship in the future."

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