

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Fire Technology Advisory Committee
November 5, 2013
PSTC 108, 6:00 PM

Present

David Trussell – LCC
Tim Williams - Cal-Fire
Jennifer Bird - LCC
Chad Lawson – LCC
Suzanne Rocha – USFS
John Nickey – USFS

Kim Keith – Business and Career Network
Chris McNally – Lassen County Sheriff's Office
Dr. Beatriz Vasquez – LCC
Dr. Tammy Robinson – LCC

Absent

Charity McAndrew – USFS
Jeff Young – Cal Fire
Dave Ramirez- LCC

Mike Rivas- LCC
Dan Weaver – Susanville Fire Dept
Gary Zack - BLM

6:00 Welcome Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Tim Williams at 6:11 pm
Round table introductions and welcome

Approval of Minutes from November 11, 2008

Jennifer Bird Moved to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2012 meeting, Dave Trussell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

New and Replaced Committee Members

Dr. Vasquez noted that a new board must be approved by the LCC Board of Trustees. The new list of advisory committee members will be forwarded to her for approval. There have been numerous changes due to agency personnel turnover. Dave Trussell moved to elect Tim Williams as the committee chair, Dr. Robinson seconded the motion which was then approved.

Tour of Public Safety Training Center

This agenda item was postponed until after the meeting was adjourned.

Update on OC Crew

Dave Trussell gave a brief history of the crew which was a joint project with the USFS in the summer of 2012. In 2013, the charge of the crew was under the USFS due to disagreements about crew selection processes. Suzanne Rocha and Michael Green (USFS) will meet to discuss the future of the crew. Students were able to work this summer going on three fires, covering stations during periods of lightning activity, and doing other project work for the USFS. They had an end of season luncheon with the crew leadership speaking on how to pursue employment with the agency. Instructor, Chad Lawson spoke about his FS 51 Intro to Fire Careers class which will be highlighted with presentations from representatives from all agencies. Kim Keith from the Career Network is interested in being involved in the class as well.

Update on VTEA Funds

Dave Trussell relayed that the proposals for funding will be done soon for spending of the funds. Last year we received approximately \$13,000. Dr. Robinson explained that VTEA funds are used to help students get vocational/Technical job training. The list of prioritized items was reviewed with many of the items on the wish list having been purchased either partially or in whole during the previous fiscal year.

Chris McNally inquired about VTEA funds for the other programs now housed in the Public Safety Training Center, particularly EMT/First Responder, as well as for other pieces of the fire science program besides the OC crew. Dr. Vasquez explained that the IPR is the avenue for requesting funds. EMT falls under Nursing and it was noted that there is currently no budget dedicated to EMT classes. Chad Lawson addressed the faculty to student ratio in the First Responder classes; regulations vary from agency to agency and from course to course. Chris McNally added that there is typically a 1:10 ratio for CPR/First Aid and the First Responder ratio is even smaller. Currently there are many volunteers including himself that come up to the class to assist with the skills portion of the classes. One instructor cannot do this alone with a class of 25. Others, such as Chad Lawson are hired as assistants at the hourly rate of \$10.00. Dr. Vasquez would like to know about possible compliance issues and Dr. Robinson believes there are other avenues for hiring help at a higher rate.

Kim Keith brought forth a possible secondary source of funding assistance for students via Alliance for Workforce Development. The program would be for students who complete a certificate and obtain employment and would help pay for their needed equipment in their job including fire boots. The OC crew members could qualify for this program as well as other students in the program who complete the program requirements. John Nickey added that the OC crew isn't guaranteed work, so we may need to focus more on second year students who may have an advantage in certificate completion and opportunities for hire. Jennifer Bird will begin identifying students who will be obtaining one of the Fire technology certificates and schedule a time for Kim to make a presentation in one of the core classes.

Update on Contracts

Tim Williams stated that there has been a delay in the billing for the contract with Cal Fire due to balances owed by them from previous fiscal years. The business office at LCC is unwilling to proceed with current billing until the balances are paid.. Cal Fire is not receiving their part of the contract and LCC is not being reimbursed for student enrollments during the stand still. Cal Fire is building a sign for the PSTC with funds from this contract. Dave Trussell will speak with Dave Clausen and Dr. Vasquez about how to remedy this issue so that the billing processes can continue.

John Nickey reported that the contract we have with them is working well. They purchased a smart board for the Ted Overton Training Center with some of the funds received.

USFS/Cal FIRE Training Needs

Cal Fire would be interested in developing a Firefighter I program so that our students can qualify but at this point the requirements are unclear within the agency. They would still like to see a RIO/Ethics class but understand that bring in qualified State Fire Marshall instructors can be very expensive. Dr. Vasquez suggested partnering with other colleges to meet the needs and split the expense.

The USFS would like to focus on training students to the agency's GS 3 level of qualifications and have sent LCC a list of their courses for the 13-14 school year that will be offered through the contract. The contract allows LCC students to participate in courses normally offered strictly to agency employees and enrolls agency employees as students at LCC which benefits both parties. John Nickey also stated that Basic 32 will be offered via the contract with Forest Service using USFS instructors at Middleton Hall.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Public Safety Training Center.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm