

**LASSEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FIRE SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 3, 2017**

PRESENT:

Dr. Terri Armstrong, LCC, VP Academic Services
Kyle Bare, LCC, ISAC Fire Science
Dana Higgins, CalFire-Training Center*
Kory Konkol, LCC, Division Chair
Chad Lawson, LCC, Interim Fire Science Director
Kyle Mallory, Fire Science Student
James Moore, Susanville Fire Department
Christi Myers, Norcal EMS*
Fran Oberg, LCC, Executive Assistant Academic Services
Mike Rivas, LCC, Fire Science Instructor
David Sandborg, USFS*
Tim Stout, Lake Forest Fire Department*
Dan Weaver, Susanville Fire Department*
Tim Williams, CalFire
*Voting members

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Chad Lawson called the meeting to order at 12:35. Members introduced themselves. All present were given a folder with information on proposed curriculum.

APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Rivas made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/10/16. Stout seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

DISCUSS FIRE FIGHTER 1 ACADEMY AND UPDATE ON CAL FIRE ACADEMY:

Lawson reported on the CalFire Academy classes. LCC offered all classes except the burn class. Students were able to complete that class at College of the Siskiyous. 5 of the students that completed the program applied for and were offered jobs.

It looks like the state will be adding Fire Fighter 1 Academy as a pre-requirement to the CalFire Academy.

Lawson has a line on a '95 3D Spartan engine in Yuba City. He's looking into the possibility of AEBG grant funds to help pay for it.

The Stonger Workforce grant was approved and is a possible source of funding for a burn building at the training center. An MOU with the city is needed.

Fire Fighter 1 Academy will take 18-24 months to get up and running. Other colleges are struggling to get curriculum written and burn buildings state certified. LCC is ahead of the curve. Our curriculum has been written and has been forwarded to committee for approval.

There was a brief discussion on new burn building requirements. The state is no longer allowing conex structures. Burn buildings require annual State Fire Marshal certification for engineering and safety.

The cost is about \$5000 per year and should be adding to the budget process and MOUs. The question was raised "Does this get the college out of liability?" The answer is no, but it shows due diligence and is an NFP requirement.

Lawson stated future plans include becoming a Fire Fighter 1 testing site for the state.

DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF ENTERING INTO AN MOU WITH THE LASSEN COUNTY FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION:

Lawson stated that working out an MOU with the Lassen County Fire Officers Association would be beneficial to both parties. It would generate more FTEs for the college and Fire would get a bigger piece of the pie. Moore stated that municipalities might have to be brought in. Chico, Shasta & Butte have similar agreements. We should reach out & see if we can get copies from them. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. Moore cautioned that the agencies can't bear the brunt of providing instructors. Care must be taken when writing the MOU to assure there's no double dipping. Stout suggested the MOU be with a non-profit instead of the Fire Officers Association. He was concerned about subsidizing the association just for sponsoring classes. Moore would like to have the MOU with the fire officers association because proceeds could be put into putting props in the training center. Lawson said he'd like to have an MOU where everyone gets a piece of the pie and we all get the training we need.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE NEW CLASSES:

The handout of new curriculum that has been presented to the LCC curriculum committee was reviewed. Most classes have already passed through the committee; some are awaiting approval at the state Chancellor's Office. The classes needed for CalFire Academy and Forest Services have already gotten Chancellor's Office approval. A question was raised about why a class an agency puts on is 4 hours but the new LCC class is 8.5 hours. LCC can't go under 8.5 hours & still get Chancellor's office approval.

FS-92 is straight out of State Fire Training. We're waiting to see if the Chancellor's office approves the State Fire prerequisites as listed before submitting similar courses.

FS-68 will be taught at the high school as part of the Pathways program. The program has 196 hours of introductory instruction covering EMS, Fire & Law Enforcement.

FS-94 is part of the USFS contract. Anyone can register for the class at LCC if they meet the minimum qualifications. Stout was concerned that 1st year students might get into this advanced class. They would not be allowed because they wouldn't have the pre-requisite Single Resource Boss certification.

1. Company Officer 2A: Human Resources Management Course Plan (corrected from Chief Fire Officer 2A: Human Resources Management Course Plan)

2. Company Officer 2B: General Administration Function (corrected from Chief Fire Officer 2B: Budget and Fiscal Responsibilities Course Plan)

3. Company Officer 2C: Fire Inspections and Investigation (corrected from Chief Fire Officer 2C: General Administration Functions Course Plan)

4. Company Officer 2D: All Risk Command Operations (corrected from Chief Fire Officer 2D: Emergency Service Delivery Responsibilities Course Plan)

4A. Company Officer 2E: Wildland Incident Operations (added to agenda)

Discussion on items 1 through 4A: Items 1 through 4A are a series required by State Fire Training. Corrections were made to the names of the classes and Company Office 2E was added to the agenda to complete the series.

ACTION: Sandborg made a motion to approve the classes listed in items 1 through 4A after the names were corrected. Konkol seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

5. Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1A

6. Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1B

7. Water Tender Operations

8. Wildland Fire apparatus Operations

Discussion on items 5 through 8: One issue with engine training is who insurance covers. As long as students have the proper license, once they are on the course, LCC engines are covered by LCC insurance. Moore stated that only people/agencies that have a reason to attend would be enrolled in

the class. Therefore, they would be bringing their own engines. Using LCC engines would be an exception. The pre-requisite of having the proper license will keep 1st year students out of the class. Lawson commented that these classes would have “instructor approval required prior to registration” flags on them. That way, pre-requisites will be checked and students without the proper qualifications can be re-directed to more appropriate classes. Lawson stated that getting these classes approved and through the curriculum process now would keep us ahead of the curve so they’ll be ready to go when MOUs are in place.

ACTION: Higgins made a motion to approve the classes in items 5 through 8. Rivas seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

9. Fire Control 3A: Structural Fire Fighter in Acquired Structures

10. Fire Control 3B: Structural Fire Fighter in Live-fire Simulators

Discussion on items 9 & 10: These classes are needed for the academy.

ACTION: Stout made a motion to approve the classes in items 9 and 10. Sandborg seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

11. Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational

12. Rapid Intervention Crew Operations

Discussion on items 11 & 12: Captain Brown will be teaching the classes. Weaver stated these classes are good and they can bring in people from agencies from across the state.

ACTION: Rivas made a motion to approve the classes in items 11 and 12. Sandborg seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

13. FS-68 Essentials of Fire Fighting

Discussion on item 13: Lawson stated this is for a Pathways program to be taught at the high school. The first year students will get a little of everything—EMS, First Responder, Fire, and Administration of Justice. Second year students will have more specific classes. This is not an Explorers or ROP program. Pathways is designed to prepare high school students for entry level jobs upon graduation. The comment was made that there are Pathways programs for AG & Science that have been in place for 5 or 6 years. Students are immersed in the program and general education classes such as English and Math are specifically designed for the program. This emergency responders pathways is in its infancy and will most likely incorporate the general education classes in future years. Jim Reichle is leading the program at the high school. Instructors are needed and they must be able to meet LCC’s minimum qualifications.

ACTION: Sandborg made a motion to approve the class in item 13. Rivas seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

14. FS-70C Crew Boss

Discussion on item 14: Currently, all single resource classes are lumped together in one class. Sandborg requested that old curriculum that split out single resource classes into individual classes be resurrected. Having both the combined and individual classes on the books will give much needed flexibility to the program.

ACTION: Sandborg made a motion to approve the class in item 14. Higgins seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

15. FS-92 Company Officer All Risk Command Operations (See #4 above)

ACTION: This course was previously approved as item #4 above.

16. FS-93 Fire Fighter 1 Academy

No discussion on item 16.

ACTION: Williams made a motion to approve the class in item 16. Sandborg seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

17. FS-94 Strike Team Leader

Discussion on item 17: This class teaches to NWCG standard. USFS has identified a need for the class for the foreseeable future. Williams stated that CalFire puts on their own strike team leader classes. They don't see a need for separate classes. Weaver and Moore stated Susanville Fire didn't see a need. Stout stated there may be a need, but he would have to reach out to other local agencies to discuss their needs.

ACTION: Williams made a motion to table this item until more input from other agencies is received. Sandborg seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

18. Discuss and approve all core classes and hybrid and online classes

Discussion on item 18: LCC can only offer face-to-face core classes every 18 months. Students need the classes more often and are going to College of the Siskiyous to pick them up. To stop the drain on enrollment, Lawson would like to have the core classes (protection, orientation, safety and survival, etc.) approved for online and hybrid delivery. A hybrid class has part of the instruction taught in a classroom setting and part of the class is completed online. Lawson felt that building construction would be the exception because that wouldn't lend itself well to online instruction—students really need to see building types and components firsthand. Most of the group was in agreement. It would keep local kids local. Guys sitting on duty would be able to take the classes. Most 100 classes are taught online by FEMA, so online classes are a familiar learning method. It might be possible to increase the adjunct faculty pool because the online format might fit instructor's schedules better. Upon further discussion, most agreed that construction could be taught in a hybrid format. Students would still get face-to-face instruction to inspect building types and then do assignments and tests online.

ACTION: Higgins made a motion to approve the core classes for both online and hybrid instruction and the construction class for hybrid instruction. Stout seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Williams asked for clarification about who could be a voting member of the committee. In general, anyone who hires graduates can be voting members.

Stout said their agency would like to offer a \$250 scholarship and inquired about the process to let students know it's available. Oberg directed him to the Financial Aid office. They have forms and can walk you through the process.

Lawson stated he is working on the Fire Technology department's Instructional Program Review. This document is used for budget and resource allocation. If it's not in there, we don't get funded. In the past, we've only done wildland fire. We're adding structures so we can get it in the budget process. Lawson asked the committee to review the document and let him know if there are any comments or corrections.

Williams noted not all contract instructors were listed. Lawson will correct.

A comment was made regarding the low graduation rate. Lawson commented that students take enough classes so they can get picked up for employment. With the heavy Fire Science class load, it's difficult to fit in the general education classes needed for the AA. Also, students that get picked up for seasonal jobs must report for work before the end of the regular semester. Lawson is working to get short term and online general education classes offered that better fit the students' schedules.

Lawson will be attending the Northern California Directors Summit. He has been having difficulty writing curriculum so that state Chancellors Office accepts state Fire Marshal language (and vice versa). He will bring up this issue.

Sandborg stated that classes that teach students how to be good employees are needed. Answer the phone properly, show up when you're called in, work while you're there, etc. The OC Crew and Work

Experience classes cover those elements. AEBG and Alliance For Workforce Development offer classes as well.

Rivas is concerned that online classes will not reinforce the “show up on time ready to do your job” work ethic that seems to be lacking in some of the new students. He covers that with all his face-to-face classes. Part of classroom instruction is learning face-to-face interaction. We need to make sure we produce great classes and put out good students. Students can’t get everything online but it’s a good way so students don’t get left behind. Sandborg had a concern about online testing and cheating. Lawson stated the Canvas platform LCC uses for online learning can be customized to generate a different test for each student, have strict time limitations for the test and other assignments, etc. Online classes are set up to meet the same standards as face-to-face classes.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be October.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Williams made a motion to adjourn. Sandborg seconded. All in favor, the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.