**Fire / EMT Technology Program**

**Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**

**November 19, 2020**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:** State Fire Training Deputy Chief Caryn Petty, Dean Gail Warner, Miramar Dean of Public Safety; Willy Melendez, Training Chief, SDFD; Steve Butcher, HFT; Billy Tomasello, Training Captain, CAL Fire San Diego; Jason McBroom, Alpine FPD; Laz Lahera, FIPT Fire Academy Coordinator, Darren Hall, Miramar Fire Program Director; and Mary Kjartanson, Dept. Chair Miramar Fire & EMT Programs.

1. **Welcome and Advisory Committee Overview**

D. Hall welcomed the Advisory Committee and thanked them for participating in the Zoom meeting. The function of the committee and their meeting schedule was discussed with the group.

1. **State Fire Training Reaccreditation (ARTP) Application and Status**
   1. Self-Assessment Report

D. Hall discussed the State Fire accreditation process, including Self-Assessment, testing and evaluation and the budget for the Fire Academy/State Fire Training process.

* 1. Site Visit

The site visit is scheduled for November 30, 2020. The visit will start at Heartland and will conclude at the campus.

1. **Budget Update**
   1. Fire In-Service (Used for SFT Courses) Spring 2021 Class Schedule

D. Hall discussed the FIPT budget with the committee. This included the planning process and how it ties in with the budget. D. Hall listed the upcoming courses that Miramar and other sites will be offering in the coming year.

* 1. VTEA / Perkins Application for 2021/22

D. Hall discussed VTEA and Perkins federal grant information for the 2021-2022 FY. These programs support technical programs within industry. We expect to receive approximately $75,000 this year. Also, the fund will be used for equipment purchases this year. It can also be used for travel if and when it resumes.

D. Hall discussed department staffing. One faculty position was recently eliminated due to a retirement and one Classified Professional position was eliminated.

1. **Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) Update**
   1. Minimal Dates due to COVID

D. Hall discussed the need to change the FTC business model due to COVID. Due to COVID, the CPAP program has been impacted. The District has COVID restrictions that make it difficult to offer the CPAP test and the written test.

* 1. Potential new site in Industrial Building in San Diego

They are currently looking for a location to host the written exam. We are hoping to partner with CJAC as they look for a location to purchase for the testing. The new location will also provide a place to house the testing equipment.

1. **San Diego City Fire Rescue**
   1. Advertisement to college students / college website update

An update was provided regarding hiring by the City of San Diego. They are not currently accepting applications from open enrollees. The City is advertising college classes (e.g. Company Officer) to employees. D. Hall reminded the committee about the FIPT department webpage, which provides detailed information for current and potential students.

1. **Regional Fire Fighter 1 Academy at Heartland**
   1. Delay start to May 2021

S. Butcher reported out for Heartland. Heartland will be discussing their proposed academy funding on December 1, 2020. He also reported that the academy will be delayed from January 2021 until May 2021. The academy will be a short academy, with possibly 12 people in attendance.

* 1. Update on Future Funding for Regional Academy in 2021

The reason for the change in the academy is due to a lack of funding, specifically, they are not able to currently collect funding due to a lack of student enrollment.

* 1. Sustainable Testing Business Model for Future FF1 and FF2 Testing

1. **Regional Fire Fighter 2 Exams at Heartland**
   1. Testing required January 1, 2022

Heartland is doing the FF1 test for firefighters in the region that have not gotten this certification. For FF2 testing, they are still working on the process for administering the test.

D. Hall reported that if the college partners with Heartland, Heartland can fall under Miramar’s accreditation with the State.

* 1. Sustainable Testing Business Model for Future FF1 and FF2 Testing

This topic is currently being discussed at the Firefighter Steering Committee. They are looking at ways to improve the testing.

1. **AS Degree in Fire Technology – Entry Level Firefighter / Campus Academy**
   1. Part-time and Full-time Academy

The Fire Academy has been revised and there is now a cohort of classes that make up the requirements for the State Academy. Once they complete the cohort, they are eligible to take the exam. There is a full time model that runs for 16 weeks. There is also a part time program that runs for 32 weeks.

* 1. Student Interest / Agency hiring requirement

D. Hall reported that by using tracking forms, they have been able to analyze interest in the program. They started using a Student Interest Form in the fall. There are currently 168 students that completed the application for spring 2021.

* 1. CSTI Hazmat Cert vs SFT Hazmat CERT

The question has been raised about continuing to use the certifications. D. Hall asked the committee if there were concerns about continuing with the certification. One committee member stated that they supported using the SFT model. The costs for the various type of certifications was discussed.

1. **AS Degree in Fire Technology – Fire Prevention**
   1. Degree requirements includes new SFT Inspector Series

D. Hall reported that they had great success with this series.

* 1. Work Experience / Task book and participating agencies

The Work Experience class allows students to work on their task books and to start working with agencies while completing the books.

* 1. Removal of ADJU 357 – PC 832

It has been proposed that the ADJU 357 – PC 832 class be removed as a required class from the FIPT degree curriculum. D. Hall asked the committee is they agreed to the change. One committee member proposed that the class remain in the curriculum as an optional/elective class. G. Warner explained that the reason for the curriculum change is that the class was moved off site, with some of the scheduled classes being cancelled, due to COVID restrictions.

1. **SFT Company Officer Courses** 
   1. SFT Course implementation Plan & Advertising between SWC, Palomar and Miramar
   2. Curriculum Update – Add Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness 2A – Line Supervisor

D. Hall reported that there has been a curriculum update for this class. There are now three different levels (Academy, Awareness, and Supervisor). D. Hall is recommending that for the Company Officer curriculum, Behavior and Health Awareness be added and that the college consider an increase to the budget to cover the costs associated with offering the class.

* 1. SFT Fee Increases

D. Hall discussed the student fees associated with the classes. G. Warner is currently in discussions to make changes to the student fee structure.

1. **Cal Fire/San Diego County Fire Authority**
   1. Hiring trends

The application process for Cal Fire is currently open and closes on November 30, 2020. Cal Fire has hired approximately 100 fire fighters this year and they expect to have another 100 positions open next year. They currently have approximately 900 employees.

1. **EMT Program and High School Collaboration Efforts**
   1. Impact of Remote EMT Instruction and quality of Prehospital Care

M. Kjartanson reported that the EMT program is currently working with Kearny High School and Health Science High School to provide EMT training.

* 1. Ride A longs with SDFD or Medic Units (Kearny HS and Health HS)

M. Kjartanson proposed that the committee consider allowing the high school students to participate in a ride-a-long program and/or working in the stations, so that they are exposed to how the job actually works. She also discussed the vital skills training for students. It has been identified that there are some gaps with training when the students transition to work (e.g. taking blood pressure). She asked the committee members if they could identify any skills deficits with the students, and if any, which areas. Any feedback that they can provide will be used to improve the program training.

1. **Lifeguard Program** 
   1. Remove Lifeguard from FIPT and move to LFGD Program

M. Kjartanson discussed the reorganization of the Life Guard program in the college curriculum. The Life Guard agency supports the program curriculum changes, which will allow the Life Guard area to function independently.

* 1. Aligns with Program Learning Outcomes

1. **Round Table**
   1. Include Hiring Trends & Agency Needs

The committee members discussed the hiring trends for their agencies. This included hiring needs, hiring budgets, agency academies, class announcements/advertising, job announcements, vacancies, and agency goals.

* 1. Other Announcements

D. Hall announced that the college is exploring the possibility for funding a student scholarship for the FF1 Degree. There will possibly be an annual scholarship drive for the funding. He also announced that they are looking at hiring an instructor through Contract Ed to teach some of the Fire classes.

G. Warner announced that they are discussing a Fire House grant. She also provided a COVID update, specifically how COVID is impacting the schedule. The spring 2021 schedule will be similar to the fall 2020 schedule. The summer may be different depending on what happens with the COVID vaccine. We had four positive COVID cases, but they were able to contain the spread. She also provided an update on the ISA contracts and thanked the agencies for providing the information that was needed in order to process the contracts.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held during the Spring 2021 term.