

College of the Sequoias Administration of Justice Advisory Board Meeting – December 16, 2024,
at COS Visalia Campus, Kern Building #715B (12:00 PM – 1:30 PM)

Attendees:

California Highway Patrol Captain Scott Goddard
Supervising CDCR Parole Agent Gabby Curtis
Tulare-Kings Counties Police Academy Director Tom Wilson
College of the Sequoias Police Chief Donnie Charles
COS Professor Sidney Hammond
COS Professor Candido Alvarez
COS Psychology Professor Linda Del Rio
College of the Sequoias Social Sciences Dean Jesse Wilcoxson

Minutes:

Begin Agenda – 12:10 hrs. - Candido Alvarez

Introductions – Each attendee introduced themselves.

Purpose of Board discussed – Sidney Hammond - Mandated under CTE Criteria. Seeking feedback on needs of industry/community that can be employed in AJ curricula/programs/courses. The Board has been carefully constructed to serve an integral purpose for the AJ Department and the Police Academy.

- Gabby Curtis - Discussed new employees having difficulty with case management and lacking prioritization. Some employees have been overwhelmed and have exhibited “well-being” issues.
- Scott Goddard - Discussed driving issues with academy cadets and newer officers as well as communication skills, including use of email. Improvements have been seen over the last several years regarding communications, but improvements are still needing.
- Donnie Charles - Discussed he has seen an issue with Work Experience employees (volunteers) not showing up to work or showing up late without notification at times. He also noticed employees are overly relying on Artificial Intelligence for purposes of written communication.
- Linda Del Rio - Discussed she is also a marriage and family counselor and she had seen issues with officers lacking emotional intelligence and discerning when individuals may be suffering from a mental health crisis. She stated more emphasis may be placed on the “human piece” of policing. She indicated that police officers should be held to the higher standard.
- Jesse Wilcoxson - Discussed the change from IGETC and Cal State System transfer requirements into the new CALGETC and where the “demand” is going to go for student enrollment. He imagines there will be some accommodations and adjustments that will need to be made.

AB 89 - Modern Policing Program (MPD) Update - Candido Alvarez and

Sidney Hammond - Overview of AB 89 as well as implication to the AJ Program. The Board was advised that the MPD and the transfer degree will be the only options at COS, beginning in the Fall of 2025. Jesse instructed us to work with staff on how to “deactivate” the existing two local degrees that will no longer exist. Discussion included on how to manage students who will be under the existing catalog/programs to ensure they graduate as expected.

Note: The AJ Advisory Board unanimously approved the Modern Policing Degree at our December 16, 2025 meeting, as outlined in AB 89. This degree program is tentatively scheduled to be implemented beginning in the fall 2025 semester, pending system-wide approval.

Fresno State Bachelor’s Degree Cohort – Sidney Hammond – Updated of the success of the program and the first Cohort has now graduated, with the second graduating this upcoming May.

The California General Education Transfer Curriculum (CALGETC) Standards – Candido Alvarez - Establishes a singular lower division general education pathway that meets the academic requirements necessary for transfer admission to the California State University and the University of California by Fall of 2025. AJ 11 (Introduction to Criminal Justice), AJ 45 (Freedom and Terrorism), and AJ 25 (Constitutional Law) are in the process of being improved to be included in CALGETC plan for the AJ Department.

Administration of Justice Club – Candido Alvarez – Updated of the recent trip to the CHP Academy and for Spring 2025 Semester as trip to the CDCR Academy. Mentioned funds received by the COS Foundation for the field trips, speakers at meetings, enrollment of members, activities and future BBQ fundraiser.

Tulare-Kings Counties Police Academy – Director Tom Wilson – Discussed a new Mapping Articulated Pathways (MAP) program (“DOD Skill Bridge”) geared for military members to have an exemption/credit towards the MPD based on military service in the form of apprenticeships so as to not lose potential future police officer candidates due to MPD requirements which may be difficult for exiting military members.

Work Experience - Candido Alvarez - Mentioned still in needing of formal or informal work experience opportunities with industry partners. Mentioned Tulare County Probation as being the only local agency offering a formal program. TCSO offers informal internships as well as Visalia PD has one current informal internship. Chief Charles said he offers students work experience opportunities.

Roundtable - All participated on goals for the winter break and 2025.

Adjourned - 1335 hrs.