

Northland Pioneer College FRS Advisory Board Meeting  
April 15, 2008  
Silver Creek Campus

Attending: Peggy Belknap (NPC), John Telford (Catalyst Paper), Ron Squire (NPC), Chester Crandell (NAVIT), Eric Ritz (NATC), Randy Chevalier (Show Low Fire Dept), Tim Van Scoter (Lakeside Fire Dept), Bill Solomon (NPC), Ed Lindquist (Show Low Fire Dept), Clay Wood (Taylor Fire Dept), and Kathy McPherson (NPC).

The group all made introductions. Bill Solomon asked Peggy to explain to the group about the importance of advisory meetings. Peggy stated that Fire Science is their business so NPC needs their advice, is the program working? is it not working. Are the students being properly trained? We have a good group which consists of Industry, Catalyst, and NPC BIT Coordinator. Peggy told the group that Carey Dickerson had been hired and will start May 1. We need honest feedback from everyone of what the college can do to make it better.

**Program Review** - Bill Solomon stated to the group that a program review needs to be done every four years. One will have to be completed in 2008. A program review is needed for accreditation. Peggy stated that the Fire Science Degree has changed – the Basic EMT course is now a 9 credit course. There have been some new courses added to the EMT curriculum they include: EMT 120, 121, 130, 132 and 133.

Peggy stated that there were over 80 students in the EMT Basic Class. Many are not testing for the National Registry – that is why they added a new prerequisite for the program beginning in fall 2008.

Bill stated that when the FRS program started enrollment was minimal – it has grown. The core classes had about 88 students. The Show Low class had 14 students – 13 passed state testing. Bill said that our partnerships are very important; he said he feels the marketing plan is lacking. The NAVIT classes are going well. Bill would like to get a survey out by the next meeting; the advisory board will approve the questions they want on the survey. Bill went over several items from the program review that was completed in 2004. The new review will need to be compiled by this group. Ed asked what is going to happen in the future as far as this program, it is not a game. Clay said you have raised the bar – taking it from just another academic class, to the way a Fire Department should be ran. Ed said that he has helped with Fire Departments in the valley – fire fighters in uniform are treated with respect no matter where they are from. Randy stated that we need to focus on upper level classes.

Bill told the group that we need to focus on how to get the classes advertised. Ed suggested finding out who the training officers are at the various fire departments and letting them know what classes are available. Bill said that there is a report writing class

coming up soon. Peggy told the group that NPC now has a new Marketing Director – Ann Hess who is doing a great job. Peggy said that she would listen to any ideas the group has and try to implement them. Peggy also said that the Wild Land class credit will be changing next year. She explained that when you change a class credit, you have to change the course number, for that reason she said the Wild Land classes could go under FRS 199. Randy asked about instructor materials – Peggy said she was not aware that the instructors did not have materials; she said that all instructors need to have an instructor book available. We need to make sure we have enough faculty manuals available. Eric Ritz suggested that we identify the courses and perhaps the material could be kept at the NATC library.

**New Fire Fighter I & II Manuals** - Bill asked the group what FRS I & II instructor's manual they liked; he stated that he liked Essentials. Ed said for Bill to talk to Phil Mealy to see what the state requires. The college tests do not mirror what is in the text book. Peggy said that she thought the college bought a test bank. It was stated that the tests have been the same for the last three years – Peggy said that needed to change. The group said that either text book would be good to use; but the tests need to match whatever book you choose. Chester stated that the instructors should delete the questions that do not pertain and add questions that come from the book you choose. Peggy informed the group that the book orders are due April 28<sup>th</sup> – so we need to know if they want a different book. Bill stated that the book change did not need to be this year – but it is very important that the tests match the information that is in the book. There are 10 books in the Wildland packet. It was stated that out of a class of 14 8 of 14 books were wrong. Several new books did not have the I-100's in them. Peggy said that the bookstore needs to get the old books off the shelves. Ed stated that there will be a lot of Wildland classes happening in the spring. Clay suggested including a lab fee that will pay for the books. The books could then be passed out to the students the first day of class; he would love to see that happen.

**NATC** – Eric said that the burn tower is erected and completed; however, it still needs an apron around it that should be in this summer. The classrooms are completed. NPC and NAVIT can begin using the facility in August. Eric stated that they are close to having Phase I completed; he welcomes input from the group of what kind of apparatus they need. He stated that a quality product is available to the communities. – a larger vision is to expand beyond FRS and Law Enforcement to show community support. Ron asked when the flash chamber would be ready – Eric said that it would be ready for use as soon as the apron is delivered.

**NAVIT** – Chester said he would like to expand the program on I-40 to include Joseph City and Winslow. He stated that the Winslow Fire Department would be willing to open the Department – the same as Taylor Fire and others do to get NAVIT students trained. Peggy stated that there are no certified instructors in Holbrook or Winslow. She would love to be able to do it.

**Industrial Emergency Response Team Training** – John stated that a 120 hour course for incident command course is needed for instructors. We need to get 40 hour classes set-up. Industrial side needs to get involved. There are two instructors certified to teach FRS at SRP. Eric said he would like to get a list of everything that is needed to start teaching classes at NATC. The classes that the plants need are First Responder Operations, Confined Space and HazMat. It was stated that a refresher course is needed by the employees every year. Peggy stated to the group that we need to have a meeting with industry and the group agreed. Peggy asked Ed if he would be willing to teach and he said that he would. John stated that Catalyst will have a summer internship available. Ed stated that he is stepping down as Chair of the FRS Advisory Board – he stated that he has too many things going on. He feels that a FRS faculty member needs to be the chair. Peggy told Ed that is fine, she asked Ed if he would still be part of the advisory group and he said yes.

**Carl Perkins** – This years funding did get the Flash Chamber; hopefully it will start being used soon. There are professional development monies that are available, there is a conference coming up this summer that the money could be used for. Peggy stated that adjunct faculty could take advantage of it also. Bill stated that we need HazMat instructors. Ed asked if he could retake the HazMat training since it has been eight years since he last took it – Ron stated that he could. Ron said there is about \$18,000 left if anyone would like to attend the conference in July. Peggy asked Tim what a used fire engine would cost – he stated anywhere from \$175,000-\$250,000. Peggy said that it would be stored at the NATC training center. Eric said that if NATC would have a garage in 2009, how soon would the decision need to be made for FRS to get a fire engine.

Bill passed out invitations to the FRS Completer Ceremony that is scheduled at the Performing Arts Center at SCC on May 15, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.