

Northland Pioneer College FRS Advisory Committee
Minutes
January 10, 2005

Members Attending: Stuart Bishop, Blue Penrod, Matt Weber, Dr. Fleming, Peggy Belknap, Varnell Gatewood, Mark Tessay, Jack Ingram, Clay Wood, Scott Burt

NEW FIRE SCIENCE DEGREE

Much thought and work has gone into getting this finalized. This degree will go into effect Fall Semester 2005. The earliest graduate with this degree can be December 2005. The NPC Catalogue is going online. That will help us to keep our program more up-to-date. It was suggested that we do a blurb on this at the next Chief's Meeting in Lakeside so that the degree program can be promoted in the Fire Departments.

NAVIT

It was recommended that the Incident Command course be one of the first things taught. It is the core of everything else. The NIMS Version should be taught; can be downloaded off of the FEMA Site. Report writing should also be in 1st year curriculum. Matt asked if we really need all of the 1 cr. classes. He has been approached by a board member with this question. Scott says that the students going through NAVIT are better prepared for the core classes because of all of the 1 credit classes.

The question was brought up on whether we should start requiring Gen Ed courses to be a part of the NAVIT Curriculum. Clay believes that the students need Gen Ed. Would it be good to offer Gen Ed during the 4th semester? Matt wants to spread Gen Ed courses out during all 4 semesters to keep the students excited about Fire Science.

Scott said that he learned at a meeting in Tucson last week that there will be 1,000 job openings in the Arizona Metro Area Fire Depts. over the next 5 years. We want to send the students out into the workplace with competitive skills and degrees.

SPRING SEMEMSTER

The majority of the NPC curriculum for the Spring Semester is NAVIT. There are a few Wildland classes and a few FF I & II that are finishing up.

If anyone has classes that they want to add to the schedule for Summer 2005 they need to let Scott know before January 20th.

NATC COMMUNITY FIRE & EMS WORKSHOPS

Donna Farkas says it might be possible to get Chief Brunicini to come and do a workshop in the Fall, if we schedule him now. Clay will write the letter. Locations for the workshop were discussed. It had been thought that Hondah might be too expensive but Peggy said that for a previous Health Workshop that was held there, the costs weren't out of line. The cost had been approximately \$2000 for 200 people. She said that if you eat your meals at the Casino/Resort there isn't a charge for the facility. Then if you have vendors come and set up booths during your conference you can charge a minimum of \$350 per booth.

The purpose of this workshop would be to make several different classes and different topics available to those who attend. We don't want to compete with the Arizona State Fire School, where you focus on one class for 4 days. We would not worry about trying to give college credit for classes but can issue Certificates of Completion to be used for resumes as proof of continuing education.

FIREFIGHTER I & II CURRICULUM & SPONSORSHIP

Scott passed out Drafts for review by this council. The draft gives specific requirements for running the Fire Science program, and addresses such issues as host agencies, sponsoring agencies and the equipment that they will provide for their programs. Our goal is to be at the 2002 Edition Standard by Fall 2005. We are currently at the 1996 Standard. Can we raise our Standard? Is it doable? Stuart says that the most important thing is the consistency of the program. College-wide every class should be being taught the same material with the same equipment. Scott pointed out that if you have a NFPA equipped Fire Apparatus you already have a large part of the required equipment.

There have been problems with age of students wanting to take the classes, conflicting with the age requirement to take the State test/Live Burn. Dr. Fleming stated that the college cannot deny admission to classes due to age. It would be up to the Sponsoring Agency to give requirements regarding such issues as age, physical health, etc. Stuart suggested taking it to a Chief's meeting and making sure that all of the Chief's understand the requirements and the liability to their department. He recommends coming up with a checklist that can be used by the sponsoring agencies to evaluate each possible student before permitting them into the program. Jack will make up the check list and take to next Chief's Meeting. Stuart will make sure that it is put on the agenda.

Each Sponsoring Agency will be responsible for their own endurance/physical agility test.

FIRE SCIENCE FACULTY

Little has been done on the State level. The State is needing instructors. We need to be involved and have input in to these decisions. We don't want decisions made for our area by people from the Metro areas of our State. Scott

has been nominated as a board member. In April a vote will be taken to fill 2 seats on the board. Three people are nominated for these positions. Every Department and group on this council are encouraged to make sure that they are a member so that they can vote and have a say in this.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Stuart has been chairman of this committee for 3 years and was wondering if people would like a change. Clay commended Stuart for they great job that he has done and nominated that he stay in as the chairman. The motion was seconded by Matt. Stuart said he would be willing to do this. It was unanimous! Stuart will remain chairman of the advisory council!!

NEW FRS COURSES (LEADERSHIP I, II, III)

Blue recommends using the curriculum that is taught at the National Fire Academy. He will get it to Scott to review. The decision to make changes will be tabled until different options are checked out.

Matt wondered if Leadership training could be put into NAVIT curriculum. Everyone agreed that the FRS222 material is too advanced for NAVIT classes. Possibly a simpler version could be taught i.e. Leadership Theory or Principles of Leadership could be added to the NAVIT curriculum.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Dr. Fleming wanted to make everyone aware that Peggy has just had a promotion. Her new title is Dean of Work Force Development . He commended her for the wonderful job that she does for NPC. Congratulations Peggy!

Peggy just wanted to thank everyone on this committee for all that they do. The input is vital to the success of the programs at NPC.

Varnell wanted everyone to know that by 2009 all Wildland Firefighters must be certified with a degree in Biological Science. (2 year) The State will be sending someone to explain the criteria and what courses will be needed. Peggy & Scott would like to attend this meeting. The college would like to help formulate the degree program. NPC would also like to provide instructors for the Wildland Classes. The Wildland courses taught at Hondah are 78% full. Winter is a hard time to have their training because many of their prospective students have jobs at Sunrise and other winter jobs. They want to get so that their training will mainly be in the Fall.

Mark stated that he would like to see NPC as an avenue to teach his Department and keep up to Standard. He wondered if we could email more often about what's going on with the State & Federal level. He had concerns with a few items on the equipment list. He says that they have no need for High Rise Packs in their area & have never used a smoke machine. He feels that that would be a

major expense for his department for something that they would rarely use. Scott said that the Departments have got to train in a way that their students are prepared to go out and work anywhere; they may not stay in the area that they get trained in. Mark also wondered if it might be possible to get some props made for teaching sprinkler systems so that the students can really see how they work. Scott is in the process of seeing if Abitibi will donate some old sprinkler system that can be used for training and moved to different locations, if it's not too heavy.

Mark would also like a better system to be in place so that the Whiteriver Fire Department knows what is happening with the NAVIT students from Whiteriver. He said that in the past some students have come in and asked for gear and they don't even know who they are. They would like to be kept informed on the classes and how they progress or how the students have done in the class. Peggy says that a Release of Information form must be signed by the Student. The Fire Department needs to tell the Students applying for sponsorship that it is a requirement to sign the release. Whiteriver is concerned that they are not seeing any firefighters produced through the NAVIT program. Stuart recommended that Mark and others from his department come to Pinetop Fire and be part of the NAVIT class, maybe help instruct. Matt says that the big problem with the Whiteriver students seems to be their poor attendance. A bus picks them up at 7:20 and takes them to Pinetop and then busses them back. But the majority of the class have dropped out before the class is finished. Mark would like to see if NAVIT could come into their area so there isn't a problem with distance.

Jack was wondering if the Fire Science degree program will transfer to a 4 year school. Peggy says, "No"! The Universities want most of the emphasis to be on the Gen Eds. ASU West had shown interest at one point in working together on a 4-year plan but have not gotten back with us.

Clay thanked everyone for making this committee successful and putting the time into it that it takes.

Scott said that we've got to get books in to our bookstores. We need to decide on one book to use college-wide. It was agreed by everyone that the NFPA book and IFTSA book were the only two books to be considered. Both books meet the standards but we only want to sell one book at the bookstores. If a department wants to use a different book they can and they can receive college credit, they will just have to provide their own books. It does need to be discussed by the chiefs also to make sure that everyone is in agreement. Then the books can be ordered.

Everyone watch their email for the next Advisory Council Meeting!

