

Fire Science Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

5/29/2024 12pm NATC Campus

1840 W. Papermill Road, Taylor

(Lunch provided)

Minutes: Jeanette Hancock

Attendance: Jeanette Hancock, Jeremy Raisor, Bill Solomon, Michelle Prentice, Chad Kreuger, Jason Payne, Lewis Noble, Conrad Loney, Chris Francis, Josh Livermore, Bill Prentice, Tami Wood, Danny McNeil, Randy Chevalier, Willie Nelson.

- 1. Welcome/ Introductions** – Chad welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming. Had everyone go around the room and introduce themselves.

- 2. NATC Usage / Calendar** – Chad told everyone to feel free to reach out to him/NATC with any issues and with scheduling the facilities. Sometimes the equipment is older and breaks and to let them know about it so they can take care of it. Get with Chad or Morgan, Chad for right now, and he will get you on the training calendar.

- 3. Discussions? Chad wanted to start off with some discussions.**

Emerging trends in Industry / projected hiring needs (everyone)

- Most departments said they see the need to hire multiple individuals yearly. They also believe they have a better chance of keeping those employees if they are already local. An issue with

- hiring is that we do not have affordable housing. There is a discrepancy between pay and the cost of living.
- Hiring paramedics is crucial. There is a shortage of them and it is hard to compete with what the valley fire districts can pay.
 - Some said when they hire someone that becoming a paramedic is part of the conversation. If the whole department were paramedics it would be easier but also more expensive.
 - Wildland fires are a risk to our communities and we need more focus there. Another issue with that is the insurance aspect.
 - A huge emerging issue that everyone is seeing is in the area of mental health, within their departments and also in the communities. They would like employees to have training in mental health and they also need ways to help their employees with their mental health challenges. Many more calls now are about mental health and the only place to take someone besides the ER is ChangePoint at the moment, and ChangePoint cannot admit very many people and only adults. This is a changing environment and they are having to work on getting more things accepted. Someone pointed out that we are sending a lot of kids off the mountain for behavioral health issues. This is a need in the community, adding mental health facilities, being able to communicate the problem and the challenge, pre-hospital and post hospital.
 - Electric vehicles will be an emerging trend that is coming in the future. None of the local fire districts currently use an EV.
 - Another emerging trend is moving away from 24 hour shifts to accommodate what younger generations are willing to work. Also, seeing younger generations needing to learn life skills, such as doing laundry and cooking.
 - It was discussed that students need to learn how to interview and that agencies could come in and help with that.
 - Agencies could also come in and have sign-up sheets for ride alongs for the students.
 - It was asked if NPC could add EMT to their current Fire Science NAVIT program. That would be difficult because the NAVIT program is currently a 1-year program and they would need to be 18 to test for both. It was also suggested that they offer another

class right after they finish the FRS NAVIT to help those students be job ready.

Is the degree program still satisfactory? NPC is still following the Feshe program as requested in the past.

- It was asked that if we change from the current degree would those that had already started with the degree have to start over again. Bill said not if they have taken classes within 3 semesters, then they can continue with the old degree. If not then they will have to now do the new degree.

If someone comes to us with certifications from somewhere else that we have already vetted then they do not have to pay for each credit but just has to pay a processing fee and it will be evaluated and added to transcript.

Are classes still coinciding with Task Books?

-Bill believes that Task Books are still the same.

Thoughts on possibly adding a fitness class with the Academy?

- Most agreed this would be a good idea. A lot of people are not prepared for the fitness side. It will probably be a core and offered as a 199 for the first year until approved in the curriculum. This would be done with Pure Fitness Trainers and will focus on nutrition, weights, and what is needed to be a firefighter.

Thoughts on adding Officer 1 back to the CP program? Time consuming.

-If you get firefighter, wildland, and a few others you can get a CP. If you want to do leadership, etc. could get a certificate.

-Bill said he is just not getting that much interest in Officer 1 class as it is just a college certificate of completion. It does not do any good if not state recognized, just include state testing into the class.

-Bill explained that Fire Office 1 is more of an upper division class. The state requires that fire officer designator. Those are not available as a class and not even on the books anymore. Bill said he could add it for a 199. Bill explained it is a process to get that back into the curriculum. Task Books were built on NPC degree path progression, but if they do not match up anymore, maybe look at what the degree program looks like so that those task books coordinate.

What can NPC do to help the departments know what classes are offered? (marketing, Flyers, Etc.)

-Someone pointed out that they did not know we had online offerings.

-When putting on trainings email to NAFCA and they can push out to fire departments. NPC needs a section on the NAFCA webpage.

-The challenge is there is multiple options for life paced learning at other colleges. Some start classes every Monday. Some allow students to work at their own pace. The fire departments did not want to get involved with managing their employee's education.

4. Closing. Chad thanked everyone for attending.