

LASSEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FIRE SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 10, 2016

PRESENT:

Dr. Terri Armstrong, LCC, VP Academic Services  
Kyle Bare, LCC, ISAC Fire Science  
Ryan Danielson, CalFire  
Jamie Diaz, LCC Fire Student  
Dana Higgins, CalFire-Training Center  
Kim Keith, Alliance for Workforce Development  
Kory Konkol, LCC, Division Chair  
Chad Lawson, LCC, Interim Fire Science Director  
Kyle Mallory, LCC Fire Student  
Kalvn McFarland, City of Susanville Fire Department  
Christi Myers, Norcal EMS  
Fran Oberg, LCC, Executive Assistant Academic Services  
Hal Phillips, City of Susanville Fire Department  
Mike Rivas, LCC, Fire Science Instructor  
David Sandborg, USFS  
Tim Stout, Lake Forest Fire Department  
Darlene Walsh, LCC, ISAC Fire Science  
Dan Weaver, Susanville Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Chad Lawson called the meeting to order at 12:45. Members introduced themselves. All present were given a folder with information on proposed curriculum.

APPROVE NEW AND REPLACED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The policy for LCC Advisory Committees was reviewed. The following were approved by consensus to be voting members of the committee: Dan Weaver, Dave Sandborg, Ryan Danielson, Dana Higgins, Tim Stout, Kim Keith, Christi Myers.

UPDATE ON MOVE BACK TO LCC FROM CREDENCE/PSTC LOCATION:

Lawson gave members a general update on the Fire Science Department's move back to campus. We have a beautiful cache and engine parking is coming soon. He's happy with the move.

DISCUSS INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRESS REPORT (IPR):

With our move back to campus and new leadership, now is the time to add to our program. There is a need in our community for new classes. We want to add CalFire Academy 179 hour certification, structure classes and State Fire Marshal classes. The CalFire Academy is in place. We're working on an MOU.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE NEW CLASSES:

- LCC currently has classes that cover portions of the CalFire Academy 179 hour certification. Lawson has been writing curriculum for new classes that can be stand-alone classes, but also part of the CalFire Basic Training. The goal is to have a complete string of classes that make up

all the components of the CalFire Academy. As part of the LCC curriculum process, all new classes need to be brought before the advisory committee where they will be reviewed for content, relevancy and need.

- Danielson made a motion to approve FS-59, Stout seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.
- It was suggested that the remaining classes (FS-53, FS-58 (S-190), FS-80, FS-54, FS-81, FS-90 (I Suite) be discussed as a whole.
- Most classes will be included in existing LCC certificates. There is a proposed new LCC certificate for just the CalFire Academy 179 hour classes. The EI Suite will be taught under the USFS contract.
- A comment was made that the 700 course can be taken online, but it is difficult to complete. Lawson stated he would like to see the new class taught in the computer lab with a lecture component. Those that have already completed it online could do an equivalency.
- There is an 800 class in the planning stages.
- A question was raised about the need for both FS-80 and FS-81. They are both firefighter survival. FS-80 focuses on structure; FS-81 focuses on wildland. CalFire requires both for their certification.
- Danielson made a motion to approve FS-53, FS- 58 (S-190), FS-80, FS-54, FS-81 and FS-90 (EI Suite). Higgins seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.
- The proposed new LCC certificate of accomplishment would benefit those students whose educational goals are to complete only the CalFire Academy 179 hours needed for CalFire certification/employment. An LCC certificate would enable students to qualify for financial aid. Weaver made a motion to approve the LCC Certificate of Accomplishment in Fire Technology. Keith seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

#### OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Kim Keith gave a brief summary of how Alliance for Workforce Development can benefit Fire Science students. AFWD is grant funded. They help students get training to enter the workforce. Currently, the two existing LCC Fire Science certificates are part of their program. Keith will work with Lawson to get the new Certificate of Achievement added to the program. AFWD can help students pay for books, tuition, boots and other gear needed to be successful. Once a student is in their program, they are required to meet monthly with AFWD to make sure they stay on track. They have found that new students typically don't follow through with the monthly meetings, and since their funding is directly related to their success ratio, this program is usually offered to students that are one semester away from graduation. AFWD is also the local OneStop. They provide services to job seekers like help with applications, resumes and networking. They have had career fairs with agencies/employers in the past.
- Weaver commented that the State is making changes to Firefighter I certification. Currently, the Fire Department can train and administer their own tests to certify Firefighter I. In the future, the Fire Department can administer the training but prospective firefighters will have to go elsewhere to be tested by certified examiners. The State Fire Marshal wants someone other than the trainer to sign off. This makes it difficult to get volunteers through the program. The State Fire Marshal is pushing to have all examinations go through community colleges and wants to make it a requirement by 2018. There is a lot of work that needs to be done to become a certified testing site. Lawson is looking into it. Weaver commented that a local testing site is imperative. Armstrong commented that testing centers need to be under camera surveillance. LCC is trying to get a testing center for general purposes. Fire Science could possibly use it.

- Weaver commented that we should push to have all State classes transfer nationally, starting with Firefighter I (entry level structure firefighter). Lawson stated that everything is already affiliated with the TASK book. Danielson agreed there is a need.
- Lawson commented that his background is in Wildland/Aviation. He sees a need for training volunteers/structure. He invited all who see a need to come to him. He'll see what it takes to make it happen.
- Rivas commented that Dave Trussell accomplished a lot with the LCC Fire Science program. He applauds Lawson for being open to new programs and new ideas. Thanked Keith for AFWD help for students.
- Sandborg suggested we start looking into 300 level classes. Federal training centers are not offering as many as they used to. Danielson agreed with the need, commenting that training is currently outsourced to Truckee Meadows Community College and colleges in the Sacramento area.
- Lawson commented that we need to increase our instructor pool. We can put on a good product once we know what the need is. We can put on new classes but we need more qualified instructors to teach them.
- Lawson is collaborating with Reichle at Lassen High School. There is a CTE grant for Fire, Medical and Law Enforcement training. 90% is going to Fire. It's up to Lawson to write the curriculum. It would be a 2 year high school program. In year one, students would get Basic 32 and lower level fire training. In year two, students would complete the CalFire Academy and EMR training. The goal is to have them employable by CalFire immediately upon graduation from high school (at age 18). Students would get both high school and college credit. High school students do not college tuition. Right now 30 kids are interested. It would be taught at LHS and run like an academy—uniforms, grooming standards, etc. It is part of the Pathways program. LHS to LCC to Employment.
- We're trying to bring a Federal Pathways program to LCC to cover more vocations in addition to Fire. Lawson will have more information in the future.
- Lawson commented that it is difficult for Fire students to get AA degrees because Math and English classes are traditionally scheduled as full-term classes. Fire jobs normally start before the end of the school semester. He will check into the possibility of offering short-term general ed classes, possibly hybrid, to work within the Fire student's schedule.
- A question was raised—are Fire Science classes transferable to a 4-year school? Lawson stated that right now 6 classes are. He will be working on reviewing the courses, checking with 4-year schools and updating curriculum as necessary to make sure more are transferable.
- Stout commented that he was having difficulty learning the new Administrative NFERs program. Training on that would be beneficial. Weaver stated that until there was local training, Arlene or James could help him.
- Lawson stated he was trying to put together a Smaller Department Operations class. The State has asked us to host a class to cover operations and ethics. Walsh has a mailing list and will let everyone know what's coming down the pike.
- Diaz stated he was excited about the new direction the program is going and thanked the committee for being a part of it.
- Lawson stated that we should meet every three months while we're approving new classes. A comment was made that we don't want to meet just for the sake of meeting. Lawson stated that meeting would only be called when needed. The consensus was that Fridays are a good day to meet and a new set of classes would be ready for approval in February. Walsh will contact everyone as soon as a February meeting is scheduled.

- Armstrong wanted to make sure that everyone was aware the college had a new engine. It is a Model 5 CalFire 61.
- Rivas acknowledged the great talent sitting at the table. He thanked CalFire for making this happen locally so local kids don't have to go elsewhere.
- A question was raised—could this program possibly evolve into a 4-year degree offered by LCC? Armstrong state that community colleges can only offer 4-year degrees that aren't available at UCs or CSUs. LCC won't be pursuing a 4-year degree since it is currently offered elsewhere. However, we could work on a partnership to bring CSU classes to the LCC campus.
- Armstrong stated that LCC now has a Sims 3D Sand Table. Lawson stated that we are trying to find a home for it on campus. Once it is up and running, it would be used in classes as well as being available for all agencies to use.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, Weaver made a motion to adjourn. Danielson seconded. All in favor, the motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 1:45.