

Meeting – 2/26/2013 – PCC Fire Science Advisory Board Meeting



GC 106 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Present: Chris Riley, Dale Villers, Joe Sena, Patty Erjavec, Mary Chavez, John Webber, Alan Ziff

Recorder: Alan Ziff

Agenda Item	Discussion	Decision/Action Item
1. Welcome 9:00-9:05		
2. Advisory Board Changes – a move toward compliance 9:06-9:10	The CTE Advisory Committee Guide was handed out to those present, with a brief discussion regarding several compliance issues that need to be addressed, including an elected Chair from the Board members; meetings to be scheduled for twice per year; Board Member protocols; assigning a note taker, etc..	Alan will email the Guide to absent Committee members, with a request to review toward discussions at the next meeting.
3. Program changes that are reflected by those changes occurring at the State level 9:10-9:14	This past summer there was a 2:2 conference hosted at PCC attended by representatives from those Colorado colleges with Fire Science programs. Many modifications were discussed and adopted, with the primary motivation being state compliance and alignment with NFA and FESHE programs. Alan distributed a handout and presented a brief discussion detailing the changes.	The handout will be sent to absent Board members.
4. Program Growth 9:14-9:19	We have emphasized student recruitment and retention, and those efforts appear to be paying off. College enrollment in general is down, but Fire Science enrollment is up. Last semester we had 43 students enrolled in Fire Science classes, this semester we have 67. Last Spring there were 7 students enrolled in the Wildland Red Card classes, this semester there are 18. The Canon City High School program has averaged 8 to 15 students each semester for the past 5 semesters, and this semester they had 27 students express interest but only 4 passed the Accuplacer tests so the courses were canceled.	Information only.
5. High School Programs 9:20-9:27	This year we plan to expand the High School student market by offering FST courses at the High Schools. Discussions with the schools have resulted in interest expressed by Centennial, South, Pueblo West and Rye High Schools. Handouts were distributed detailing the recommended course progressions on a semester basis (with a 2-course and a 3-course per semester plan). Canon City High School is the model for this program. Chief Riley discussed the PFD Explorers and recommended a visit with them by PCC staff. (Chief Sena expressed interest in participating in the High School course presentations post- meeting.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hardcopy information will be sent by Alan to the Board members. • Alan and John Webber will arrange to meet with the PFD Explorers. • Board members - please canvas your Fire Departments for

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		potential Fire Science instructors.
6. Equipment Updates 9:28-9:32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC may be getting a Pumper donated by Evraz – possible issues with the pump. (Chief Villers stated he may have some leads if it is a pump problem.) • Still searching for airpaks and PPE, will take any fire service equipment that is functional. 	Information only
7. Open Discussion 9:33-9:48	<p>Discussions focused on what special topics could be offered for Fire Departments, and how should we direct our efforts with student training to satisfy employers needs, such as “soft skills.”</p> <p>Potential Special Topics presentations discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighter Suicide Prevention; Mental Health; and Stress Management. <p>Fire Student training may incorporate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict resolution; customer service orientation; people skills; ethics, and social media; team player perspective; professional development; accreditation; and core values. <p>Discussions also included the observation that the students in the Fire Academy courses learn soft skills such as personal grooming, appropriate uniform/apparel presentation, being on time, respectful attitudes, “professionalism,” etc. But when they move on to the Associates Degree courses they lose a lot of those traits. What, if anything, should be done and what sanctions if any should be associated? The consensus was to have Associates degree course Instructors mention it, but not force it (though also let the students know that the Instructors could also influence their hiring status).</p>	Open Discussion
8. Good of the Order	Nothing presented	

Meeting adjourned: 9:52 AM

Next meeting TBD