

Fire Technology Advisory Committee – Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2012

Present:

Alan Davis / HROP Fire Service Coordinator
Bill Gillespie / Humboldt Bay Fire Asst. Chief
Pat Girczyc / CR Dean of Health Occupations
Mike Howe / CalFire
Chris Jelinek / Eureka Fire Dept..
John McFarland / Arcata Fire Dept.
Jennifer Knight / CR Advisor
Prudence Ratliff / CR Grant Administrator
Bob Rivelle / USFS Training Office

Jon Sapper / HROP
Rodney Slaughter / Deputy State Fire Marshall
Eric Smith / Eureka Fire Dept
Michael Thomas / Ferndale VFDs
Debbie Topping / College of the Redwoods
Ed Trigeiro / College of the Redwoods
Ken Vollenweider / Deputy State Fire Marshall
Ron Waters / College of the Redwoods
Ken Woods / Humboldt Fire District

- Dean of the HERO Division (Health and Emergency Response Occupations) at CR, **Pat Girczyc** addressed the accreditation and budget issues currently being dealt with at CR. She announced that CR has made the commitment to the Fire Program and has directed her to “move forward” with plans for a Spring 2013 Fire One Academy. Support of the fire community is needed to move things along and get needed approvals. She explained that other departments, including the Law Enforcement Academy, are being adjusted to make budgetary room for the Fire Academy. Deputy State Fire Marshall, **Rodney Slaughter**, noted that a firm commitment from CR is “huge” and that fire academies keep many colleges afloat. We will need support from all local departments for instructors and equipment. Career-Technical Grant Coordinator, **Pru Ratliff** reminded all that CR will be held accountable for more completions to justify the grant money being received. A project is “in the hopper” to provide internships and work experience in the community.
- **Eric Smith** noted that “we have a lot to do” He wants to solidify a committee to work on accreditation issues in the Fire Tech degree program. He is currently seeking curriculum approval to put all Fire Tech classes online. The next step is to obtain State Fire Training accreditation as a regional training program which will facilitate test taking that would have a lengthy turnaround if all tests had to be sent off to be corrected. Future considerations are possible Wildland Fire degrees and/or a Maritime academy or at least shipboard firefighting courses.
- **Pru Ratliff**, Career-Tech Grant Coordinator, showed the Fire Tech example of a Career Tech DVD being made with CTEA funds to introduce prospective students to the College’s career options. CR Advisor **Jen Knight** works with Career Tech students and wants to learn as much as she can about Fire Tech. People are excited to have two Fire Tech classes being offered each semester which allows them to get through the degree process quicker.
- **Deputy State Fire Marshall III, Rodney Slaughter** was introduced.
 - He spoke on the future of the Fire Tech program and asked if any female instructors were available.
 - He suggested that other programs on campus be considered for cross-discipline instruction such as the Solar Tech or Historic Preservation to help build the Fire program.

- While accreditation by SFT is not required, trainees from an accredited academy are more desirable in the job market. The accreditation process will make sure that the program “meets intent” as well as checking for “best practices”.
 - Part of the application process is “self assessment” We must put together a site team. We need a peer review committee to review the application. Per **Slaughter**, peer assessment is a plus. The draft application looks good thus far; we should focus on “best practices”. We must get recommendations to the State Board of Fire Service and must also get approval by the State Fire Marshall. Who should we get: Fire chiefs? Training Officers? High school personnel? CTE faculty? Building officials? Students? Graduates? We should consider Mendo and Del Norte membership as well. HROP will want a spot on the advisory council.
 - Per **Slaughter**, members of the advisory council need to bring back input from their agencies and not function on their own.
 - Also, we should “keep an outward focus” to state organizations and agencies.
 - **Bob Rivelle from USFS** suggested that ALL enthused individuals should be encouraged to participate.
 - **Alan Davis, HROP**, noted that the participation of volunteer firefighters is important.
 - It was recognized that one individual on the committee could potentially represent several peer groups and that, as members rotate in and out, different peer groups will be represented.
 - Initial approval is good for three years. We must “match training to education”.
- Potential members to start the advisory committee: Alan Davis, Chris Jelenek, Bob Rivelle, Ken Vollenweider would be liaison for the Fire Marshall. Lon Winburn would be contacted to participate.
 - **Eric Smith** noted that the goal was to get the application ready by the end of April.
 - This is the time to “talk up” the CR Board of Trustees and members of the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Topping
(Recording Secretary)