

## Fire Science Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2015

Members present: Randy Novak, Jim Clack, Jerry Holt, Mike Caldwell, Mark Dooley, Paul Sandavol, Bobby Nalean, Jim Mitchell, Todd Fransico, John Tekkipe, MD Isley, Eric Dunn

All members were welcomed to the meeting and a meal was provided.

Members were shown the new truck and trailer used by the program storage and equipment handling.

Members were advised of Spring semester enrollment.

Chief Jim Clack asked about how the program tracks graduated students. Eric Dunn advised it is an unofficial mechanism with in the program. Eric Dunn tries to reach out to students around 6 months to a year after graduation. The college is working on a better system.

The members were informed of current timeline of SCBA upgrades. The program will purchase 6 complete units per year for 4 years. This will allow for timely replacement and the addition of 9 more units which is needed for increased enrollment.

Eric Dunn asked the members to review FIR 129- Hydraulics and Water Supply course. Eric Dunn explained the course does not fit the structure of the program as it either leans to the protection engineering side or the pump operator side, neither that the program provides. Several members stated that the program needs to look at fire prevention harder as it is a growing section in the fire service. Randy Novak stated that he feels Fire Inspector I would be a great fit. It offers heavy fire prevention as well as a state certification. Eric Dunn polled the members and they confirmed Fire Inspector I should replace FIR 129.

Eric Dunn also expressed concern with FIR 211- Principles of Emergency Services and FIR 291- Firefighter II. Eric Dunn stated that FIR 211 is heavily geared towards hands-on skills and FIR 291 is much less. Eric Dunn stated that students seem to gain great competency in FIR 211 and it fades quickly in FIR 291 as there is not as much time to work on skills. Eric Dunn stated he has talked to several other programs and instructors about this issue. Several other programs divide FIR 211 and place it in with FIR 291. This helps divide the work load in FIR 211 and keep skills up in FIR 291. At the end 291 they would take both Firefighter I and II certifications. Mike Caldwell liked that idea as he sees the difference in the students. Todd Francisco stated he feels the students would keep their edge and their skills would not decrease as they would continue to work on them over the time of 2 semesters. Eric Dunn polled the members and they feel FIR 211 and FIR 291 should be reorganized to better instruct the students.

Eric Dunn also asked the members if changing the name of the one year certificate would be beneficial. It seems the wording "fire specialist" does line up with what the program offers. Jim Mitchell stated that seems to be a good idea. Members were polled and all accepted to change the wording of the one year certificate. Eric Dunn offered the wording "Fire Protection Certificate". All members agreed on the changes.

The members were updated about the looking for dedicated space on campus for the program. Eric Dunn advised that MD Isley and he have identified a few possible spaces but nothing has been committed to the program. Jim Mitchell stated that this seems to be a huge problem. How can the

program function effectively if they do not have a space to call their own? Jerry Holt asked MD Isley if any other programs that have as much equipment and props as the fire science program have to move from building to building and store equipment all over campus? MD Isley stated that this is a top priority and the program needs a home. Jim Clack stated that where ever the program ends up, it needs to have room to expand. Jim Clack stated that it seems this program is moving quickly and needs the space to add things such as a fire engine and other training props. Mike Caldwell stated that the program needs a fire engine as current arrangements are not optimal. Obviously we need space before we can talk about a fire engine.

Eric Dunn explained to the members his concern on current fire gear cleaning procedures. Currently the program washes gear at the end of each semester at Ankeny fire station 2. It takes a long time to complete this as each set takes 45 minutes to wash and 60 minutes to dry. Eric Dunn stated he has to go to station several times a day to move gear and start another load. Several members stated this needs to be addressed quickly. Fire gear contamination is a hot topic and the need to thoroughly clean gear is a safety issue. Eric Dunn explained that upon finding space, he plans to address this issue.

Eric Dunn asked the members what they think about the program seeking IFSAC accreditation. Randy Novak stated he feels it is a great idea and supports it fully. Randy Novak is a former member of the IFSAC committee and stated it would be a great tool for the program to see where it is and where it needs to go based on the accreditation process. All members were in favor of seeking IFSAC accreditation.