

MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE/WORTHINGTON

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, September 27, 2022
Noon in Room 200

MEMBERS: Troy Appel, Matthew Sorenson, Jeff Markquart, Kenneth Willers, Jim Marshall, Ryan Kruger, Gary Nordseth, Chad Cummings, Shawn Haken, Jeremy Steinle, Evan Verbrugge, Shawn Langseth, Shawn Haken, Galen McCarthy, Eric Wallen, Jason Purrington, Lakeyta Swinea, Destiny Carlson, Ryan Hoffman, Daniel Myers, Roger Pohlman.

Present: Mike Cumiskey, Kevin Flynn, Lakeyta Swinea, Ryan Kruger, Destiny Carlson, Chad Cummings, Ryan Hoffman, Kenneth Willers, Eduardo Carrillo, Daniel Myers, Jenna Balcom, Roger Pohlman, and Trisha Heidebrink.

Call Meeting to Order 12:00 PM

Approve Minutes from last meeting: Approved

New Business:

1. Program status fall of 2022 – Mike
 - a. We have 14 ~ 2nd year students, and 17~ 1st year students. Pre-covid we would have 18-22 students every fall for first year and we usually are around 15-16 second year. We just gained three second year students from Alexandria. Fall of 2020, our numbers were still high. We saw a drop fall of 2021. Our numbers are slowly starting to go back up.
 - b. Ron is on sabbatical finishing is doctorate. Mike took over all of Ron's classes for this year like the skills classes, use of force, firearms etc. Kevin Flynn has been an adjunct instructor for us for three years. He stepped in to take Mike's classes for this year.
2. Building Proposal – Capital Finance
 - a. Update ~ there was no capital funding out of the legislature this year. We are still a project that Minnstate is still looking at. Minnstate will score the project again. The building would be located off the back of the building near the south parking lot. The plan is the same as we looked at last year.
 - b. Support ~ Mike let the group know we will be looking to them for letters of support.
3. PPOE MN POST
 - a. Good news there have been no changes to this. Post has been busy working on things skills related. The last change we got from them was to do the Autism training. Mike recommended that if Law Enforcement agencies wanted to do some training to go out and watch the Texas Autism Society Video it is not as broken down and is a good video.
4. Minnesota State (MNSCU) Taskforce on Law Enforcement Education Reform
 - a. Program Changes-

- i. Mike shared the Minnesota State Task Force Reform. This is post George Floyd and everything that went on at that time. About 86% of the Peace Officers that have become licensed in the state of Minnesota have gone through a Minnesota State school. They made a recommendation that cultural competency be incorporated in the curriculum. Cultural competency is really nothing new we have had race relations, and biased training in our post program.
 - ii. Action step 2 is to have Antiracist education. We have already been offering this although antiracist is a newer name for the training. We have anti-bias training.
 - b. Advisory Committee Process Changes
 - i. Make wants to make sure the Advisory Committee is representative of the community at large. He would like to get recommendations from this committee on people we should invite to be a part of the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee.
 - ii. Looking at the onboarding more antiracial training. Mike would like to go back to Minnesota State and ask them to recommend something rather than every school come up with their own.
 - iii. Renaming of our programs ~ Last year programs were advised to change from Law Enforcement Programs to Peace Officer Training Programs. All programs will be renamed. Our programs have already gone through the process of being renamed. It should not be a problem because everyone that is licensed has a Peace Officers license. One thing that has come up in our meeting with Minnstate was because they want Law Enforcement off everything. Market wise that is not the case so the 4-year programs are having trouble naming their programs because they do not know if Police Science is going to be compatible with Minnstate. Mike has also taken Police out of all our class titles so we do not have to go back and do that later. Mike shared a list of our current class names and what they will be changed to. All prefixes have been changed from Law Enforcement to Criminal Justice.
 - c. Advisory Committee Additional Members
 - i. If you have, any recommendations of people that would be good to serve on the advisory committee please email Mike or Trisha. Chad suggested, we contact Steve Robinson and ask him to get volunteers from the Cross Cultural Advisory Committee to join the Advisory Committee. Chad explained the Cross Cultural Advisory has leader from all cultures and communities. Kevin Flynn suggested Salvador Adame and Ayayew Bejica.
- 5. Update: Vehicles and Driving Simulator – Mike/Ron
 - a. We have one 2017 and 2 2018 SUV vehicles. We ended up getting newer ones by accident because they sold the original vehicles we were buying. Therefore, they honored the price they gave us and gave us newer vehicles.
 - b. Mike let the group know that they are always welcome to use our driving simulator.
- 6. Student Recruitment and Retention
- 7. Customized Training – Discussion
 - a. We offer the recertification for EVOC. If anyone has any customized training you want us to do please let Trisha or Mike know. Is there any kind of training we could collaborate on and help in building up this area?

- b. Kevin mention the new prosecutor does some classes. Maybe we could have him do a class at the auditorium. The prosecutor is looking for people to attend the training. Mike said, he would also include his students in the training.
 - c. Troy suggested we look at the new requirements every year because it is becoming more and more.
 - d. Roger Pohlman said, one thing he would like would be domestic violence interacting with Southwest Crisis.
 - e. Southwest Crisis is offering a strangulation class on 10/06/2022.
 - f. CIT Class was recommended, but it was noted that is a load.
 - g. Chad suggested Mental Health State of Communities.
8. Your input on how to improve the program and add new members – Advisory Committee Members
- i. Chad Cummings commented that it is very important and something we need to address is interview skills and pre-interview topics that these students should be able to speak on. Chad suggested to the students present that they start asking for a ride along with Police and EMS. He also recommended that if they have military background make sure they speak to that background. Today's youth is coming into their interviews a little timid. Now we they are only getting four or five applicants for Police officer positions where it use to be they received 70 people for the interviews. Troy from the Worthington Police Department added that back in the day when they did interviews they asked some technical questions now they do not even do that. They have changed to ask more personal questions to try and get to know the interviewees. Interviewees are still struggling with the basic life experience questions. Kevin Flynn let the group know that they do have an interview class to help with that and they do have local agencies come in to do mock interviews. Kenny Willers from the Minnesota state patrol asked if that could be changed from first semester to maybe second semester or event post so it is closer to the time the students start interviewing for jobs. Mike said he could move to post-prep class during maymester right after graduation we could do some mock interviews at that time.
 - ii. Lakeyta from ISD 518 asked if there was any requirement for practicum. Mike said in the A.S there is an internship but in our AAS, there is not. Chad Cummings said that is the hard part. That is why they need to insert themselves into these positions with doing a ride along etc.; it makes them so much more likely to be hired. Mike said he has coached several student that the Worthington Police Department has hired. They will come to Mike before their interview and ask for advice. Mike will add this to the post prep class.
 - iii. Mike did mention that Ryan Kruger does employ five or six of our current students at the jail. This is great experience for them.
 - iv. Troy Apple also mentioned that they have the reserve program that students can apply to be on to gain some experience.
 - v. Chad spoke to the fact that Departments like Worthington are becoming stepping-stones for students. They usually come to the department and then eventually transfer out to State Patrol or DNR. Chad said that is why we really need programs like this. We need to be able to hire your students. Troy said right now the Worthington Police Department is made

up of 1/3 or 1/2 of its force that graduated from Minnesota West Law Enforcement.

- vi. Roger mentioned that he does not want student to start and then a year in we lose them. We need to make sure students understand what they are getting into. We want to train resilient officers. Mike mentioned they use the book, Kevin Gilmore's "The Emotional Survival of Police Officer". Mike said that is why it is so important that these kids do the ride along so they can get their feet wet before they choose this field. Roger recommend a book called, "On combat."
- vii. Lakeyta asked, if there were requirements to do a ride along.
 - Must be 18 for state patrol
 - Smaller departments will let them do a riding along with parental consent under 18.
 - Must have a background check done.
- viii. Roger asked about Pathways. Mike said Alexandria does online. Ridgewater is also a good program if you cannot get to the classroom because you can do everything online and then do your skills anywhere. If they have a degree, Mike would send them to the Leado program or to transition at Alexandria. The State Patrols Leado program is good. Our skills program is fall and spring semester if they come to us with an AS degree.
- ix. Troy asked if there is an agility test with our use of force. Mike explained we use the state agility test. Trisha will attach a copy to the minutes. Troy said some of the new candidates do not even meet the minimum standards. Mike explained they have to meet minimum standards while in the program.
- x. Chad asked if the National requirement is to be and EMT for Law Enforcement. Mike said the requirement is to have EMR. They must have the EMR to graduate.

Old Business:

None

Next meeting: TBD

