

Minutes – LEN & Police Academy Advisory Committee

May 17, 2023 – Room B1100

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Groves Campus

- I. Welcome and Introduction – 11:00 am
  - a. Motion passed to approve minutes from the March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.
  
- II. Members Present: David Boysen, Bryan Brusach, Mark Dunneback, Bryan Ergang, Diane Fort, Gretchen Galloway, Troy Gilleylen, Sean Gordon, Michelle Greenlee, Craig Jbara, David Juday, Ashlyn Kuersten, Vic Ledbetter, Scott Merlo, Dale Mitchell, Karen Rivard, Danny Rosa, Dan Thayer, Jeff Vanderwiere, Dennis Wilkins, Allison Boerema
  
- III. Karen Rivard - LEN Program Updates
  - a. Cybercrimes Investigation Pilot Course
    - i. LEN 105 - Intro to Cybercrime Investigation has been approved.
    - ii. The course will run in Fall 2023 with instructor Michael Fry in a hybrid style, with one day taught in-person and the other online.
    - iii. It is considered a pilot course that is still in development to assess student interest levels.
  - b. Enrollment
    - i. Enrollment has increased since 2020 but has not reached the program's former peak yet.
    - ii. In-person class enrollment is back above 50%, while online classes continue to fill seats faster.
  - c. MI Workforce
    - i. Has been beneficial in learning about recruitment and program success, particularly in bringing underrepresented population groups into the field.
    - ii. First-line police supervisors are among the top 20 growing professions; looking to emphasize recruitment in that area.
  - d. Apex Officer VR Training Simulator
    - i. Purchased with funds from the MI Workforce grant.
    - ii. The system is more interactive than a MILO system, allowing communication with an operator.
    - iii. It is a mobile system that can be used for various training scenarios beyond law enforcement, such as EMT programs, Fire Academy, and faculty use.
  
- IV. Dr. Ashlyn Kuersten - Cold Case Program at WMU
  - a. WMU Cold Case Program partners with the Michigan State Police to examine cold case homicide files and gain investigative skills.

- b. Students of any major at the sophomore level or above can apply to the program, which offers a 3-credit course for 1 to 2 semesters.
  - c. The program has been successful, even helping to solve a few cases in the area.
  - d. Would like to see enrollment of KVCC LEN and other transfer students.
- V. Vic Ledbetter - Police Academy Updates
- a. Graduation of the recent Police Academy cadets took place last Friday, with all 20 graduates sponsored and employed.
    - i. All 20 graduates passed the licensing exam.
  - b. The next academy is scheduled to start on August 21st, with 22 students currently signed up.
  - c. Lake Michigan College will start a police academy in May next year, running for 16 weeks in summers only, offset from KVCC's Police Academy program dates.
  - d. MCOLES new mandated course
    - i. Mental & Behavioral Health training will be implemented by the January academy, increasing the required hours from 594 to 615.
  - e. Diversity
    - i. The recent academy included 6 female cadets, 1 black male, and 3 Hispanic males. More representation of black females is desired.
- VI. Gretchen Galloway/Danny Rosa - MCOLES Updates
- a. Statement from Tim Bourgeois:
    - i. The Commission's investigation into the operations of the KVCC academy during Sessions 102 and 103 in 2022 is being finalized. We anticipate transmitting a letter detailing the findings of the investigation as well as the investigation reports to President Washington in the next several days. We believe as a best practice the Administration should transmit the investigation report to you, along with any other materials or information they may deem relevant. However, if KVCC does not share the investigation report, it is the Commission's intent to share that report with the Advisory Board.
  - b. Apex Officer VR Training Simulator
    - i. Two other academies under MCOLES have purchased and used the simulator.
    - ii. There is consideration of acquiring a second computer to have two operators in the scenario.
  - c. Employee Recruits
    - i. Agencies should reach out to Gretchen before recruits join the academy for MCOLES vetting.
- VII. Craig Jbara
- a. Status of Communications

- i. Internal assessment of the program is ongoing and recommendations continue to be implemented.
- ii. Please reach out with questions, input, or suggestions related to instructor qualifications, additions to the MCOLES standard content, other communications-related issues, etc.

VIII. Open Discussion

- a. Licensing Exam Discussion
    - i. Policy for recruits who fail the exam: Sponsoring agencies are informed, and the testing company provides students with information on their weakest topics.
    - ii. No formal remedial training practices, but cadets are encouraged to take a week or two between retesting to decompress and study.
    - iii. The majority of students (95 out of 100) pass the exam on the first try.
    - iv. Test anxiety is addressed at the Police Academy in part through teaching note-taking techniques. C-Banner students are accepted and supported.
  - b. Further discussion on the Apex Officer VR Training Simulator
    - i. No reported medical issues (seizures, etc.) from using the system.
    - ii. The Police Academy is exploring the acquisition of the simulator.
    - iii. The City of Kalamazoo purchased one in April for approximately \$85k, including 3 wearable packs.
- IX. Next Meeting - To be determined
- X. Meeting Adjourned - 12:00 pm.