

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

Education Center, Culinary Arts

Present: Officer R.J. Faldowski, Wheeling Police Dept. and WVNCC Campus Security, Kathy Herrington, Professor, WVNCC, Captain Steve Kastigar, New Martinsville Police Dept., John Lantz, Criminal Justice Department Director/Instructor, WVNCC, Dr. Jill Loveless, V.P. Academic Affairs, WVNCC, Robert McCoid, Attorney at Law, Adjunct Professor, WVNCC, Chief Deputy John Schultz, Ohio County Sheriff's Dept., Chief Shawn Schwertfeger, Wheeling Police Dept., Dr. Purnima Sharma, Dean of Academic Affairs, WVNCC, David Stoffel, Assistant Professor, WVNCC

The meeting commenced at 11:15 a.m.

### I. Introductions and Welcome

Mr. John Lantz, Criminal Justice Program Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

The 2+2 and regular Associates degree are identical except for one (1) class.

### II. Current status of Program

Mr. Lantz passed out the curriculum for the Criminal Justice program. He stated that enrollments in the CRJ program could be higher. Currently, the enrollment is between 35-40 students. We will be reaching out to prospective students. John asked the members what they expect from our students. Are there any career path changes WVNCC can make?

### III. Input from Professionals

The floor was opened to the members for any suggestion or improvements they would like to see in the Program.

Kathy Herrington began by stating that we are experiencing problems with the Weirton and New Martinsville campuses. Traditional classes sometimes does not work because of the student's schedules. She suggested perhaps putting some of the classes online if not the whole program.

Comments were made pertaining to the Police Academy. The Academy requires a certification; a college degree is not necessary. However, having a degree has its advantages as

there are a lot of things the academy does not prepare you for, such as, the sociology aspects, especially, the many drug problems we deal with in the area. The officers are getting burnt-out.

John Lantz stated that the objective of the committee is to improve enrollment, improve quality of officers, build the program, and help with the recruitment process. Dr. Jill Loveless asked everyone to look at the curriculum handout and provide input on the same.

Chief Schwertfeger, who teaches at WLU, stated that he sees a lack of understanding of law enforcement from the students and that they are not getting real world exposure. Also, some officers or applicants do not know use of force, search and seizure, and Miranda warnings. He suggested that the CRJ program focus on these areas in our courses or outlines. He also stated that he would like to connect with college for recruitment. Many applicants cannot pass background check. Social media also plays an important role in an applicant's hiring. Students/prospective employees must learn to be socially responsible.

Internships for High Schools will allow students to get real world experience. Prepare them to go to work. Courses like Intro to Substance Abuse and having real world speakers is a plus.

Chief Schwertfeger stated that the majority of the students that are taking his class at WLU are not interested in law enforcement. Mr. Robert McCoid stated that many students taking the CRJ courses do not move on to a four institution but move right into law enforcement. Dr. Loveless stated that the Program could be used for our early entrance students. We could create a law enforcement track. This way it will strengthen their path while they are still in high school.

Another suggestion is to take advantage of the Prior Learning Assessment for credits. Perhaps those who attend the police academy can receive credits for what they learn. Chief Deputy Jim Schultz took classes at WVNCC. He stated that it meant a lot to have qualified speakers/guest speakers in the class.

#### IV. Recommendations

- Civil service examinations added as part of the program
- Human Services and Criminal Justice can tag team to teach street drugs (i.e., what are the threats to law enforcement)
- Safety training on how to physically handle drugs
- CPR and first aid classes
- Resume training
- Ride along could be included in the first semester

- Self-defense training
- Criminal forensics course
- Human Services could share their work experiences
- CPI training
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Speech
- Writing
- Training about what happened at the Federal Building several years ago
- Wheeling Police Department is hosting a forensics training course
- PLA (Prior Learning Assessment) Credits
- Have qualified speakers/guests visit the classroom
- Ride along with local law enforcement
- All members agreed that an early entrance law enforcement track would benefit those wanting to pursue a career as a law enforcement officer

V. Recommendations for Additional Members

John Lantz asked the committee for suggestions of additional possible members.

- Northern Regional Jail (Warden)
- Juvenile Detention Center
- Federal agencies
- US Marshall's Service

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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