

**West Virginia Northern Community College
CRJ Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 14, 2018**

Present: John Lantz, Criminal Justice Instructor, WVNCC, Officer R.J. Faldowski, Capt. Steve Kastigar, Jill Loveless, WVNCC Vice President of Academic Affairs, Chief Shawn Schwertfeger, Wheeling Police Dept., Dave Stoffel, WVNCC Division Chair and Instructor, Sheriff Tom Howard, Ohio County Sheriff's Office

Absent: Kathy Herrington, Sgt. Clint Lantz, Chief Deputy John Schultz,

Mike Koon, Interim President of West Virginia Northern Community College welcomed the guests and stated that their input is very important to us.

He also stated that previously WVNCC had a program that was not viable but currently we are graduating students that will be able to successfully enter into the Criminal Justice field.

John Lantz: The last CRJ meeting was held on November 17, 2017. There had been a great deal of discussion regarding the WVNCC 2+2 program and the online CRJ programs.

This year, WVNCC is offering 8 CRJ classes online and are currently approaching offering every class online with the exception of the Criminal Law Class.

Online classes allow potential students who, because of work, family or other issues cannot take classes during the day to still get a degree using the online option.

Chief Schwertfeger: "Who does WVNCC decide who becomes an adjunct instructor?"

John Lantz: The applicant must have degrees and experience that meet WVNCC requirements. A master's degree is preferred, however, field experience is also very important

Dave Stoffel: Applicants can be narrowed down based on the course –education and what requirements align with what John Lantz sets forth. Knowing the local area is also an asset.

Jill Loveless: We do have applicants from all over the country. We like to hire someone from the local area but will consider others on their credentials.

John Lantz: He met with West Liberty, Dr. Keith Bell, Criminal Justice Dept., West Liberty University. Dr Bell stated that that meeting was the first time he was invited to sit with the WVNCC program director to discuss how the two institutions could work together.

John Lantz:

1. The Title of the WVNCC Criminal Law course has been changed to Criminal Procedure to fit better into the West Liberty curriculum.
2. Criminology has changed from Sociology to Criminal Justice as it should have been placed within that program before.

Jill Loveless recommended that they change 300 – 200 credits at West Liberty She wants to see students go right into West Liberty rather than be required to repeat classes. The transfer

process will be easier to transfer. No electives will be moved or switched from WVNCC to West Liberty and placed in general electives. This helps students graduate more quickly. Hopefully these changes will be made by fall of 2019.

Chief Schwertfeger reported that when he taught at West Liberty, he was shocked to learn how little students knew. He stated that it is extremely important, if we use adjunct instructors that they have more than book knowledge when teaching the classes.

Chief Schwertfeger asked what online classes were.

John Lantz explained that the instructor scans the internet and uses his/her own research to develop the class. The instructor uses what we call the Big Blue Button that is technology that enables the instructor to share their audio, slides, chat, video, and desktop with students. Tests can be given, there is a discussion board and the students have total access.

John Lantz stated that if we can build enrollment in the CRJ classes by members of the Advisory Board sharing this opportunity with their employees, it will allow more officers will be able to get a degree in Criminal Justice.

Jill Loveless stated that we need to see what courses officers in training are receiving when they graduate from the police academy and be able to offer credits for classes taken there to those students when they begin classes here.

It could be as little as the student might only have to have fifteen more credits to graduate from WVNCC.

It was suggested that John speak with Tracy Jenkins as we have already initiated the transfer of credits with West Liberty

R.J. Faldowski suggested that WVNCC create flyers and the Police and Sheriff Departments along with WVNCC distribute them to promote the transfer of credits initiative.

Sheriff Howard asked Chief Schwertfeger if there was any pay differential for officers who had a degree and he replied that there wasn't.

John Lantz: A representative of the WV Attorney General's Office was here to present Re-entry Offender Simulation Program. Very few people know the struggles people who are released from prison or jail and on probation in finding employment. The presentation was attended by four students, Judge Mazzone, Judge Seibert and others.

John Lantz relayed to the committee that he is seeing that he is seeing that his CRJ students receive better hands-on training through bringing speakers into the classroom to share their information on topics. For instance, Dave Stoffel offered a presentation on Terrorism.

New Business

John Lantz is meeting with Interim President Mike Koon and Jill Loveless, Academic Vice President about setting up a Crime Scene Evidence House. The wish is for WVNCC to purchase a house or building, possibly through grants, that could be transformed into a training facility. Wheeling could then become a Regional Training Center for not only local law enforcement officers and fire department personnel but could also train people from other states as well. This would have to be brought before Wheeling City Council. John asked if Chief Schwertfeger and others would go in support and they agreed.

Questions asked:

What about the liability?

Response: Safety of the building and that would have to be a priority.

What area of Wheeling the building would be located?

Response: John replied that the best location would be located near WVNCC. John stated that he was aware of properties that are not being used in this area.

Would there be a charge for other entities to use the facility?

Something WVNCC will most definitely research and/or discuss

Funding for the Project?

Response: John Lantz told the committee that the college has access to Perkins funds. These funds were established to improve career-technical education programs, integrate academic and career-technical instruction, serve special populations, and meet gender equity needs and the Crime Scene Evidence House seems to fit the criteria of the grant.

John also stated that Interim President, Mike Koon is in favor of the project and has already spoken with Wheeling Mayor Glenn Elliott

Dave Stoffel told John that he should be sure to get on the agenda of the WVNCC Board of Directors meeting to speak about the project. The project would be a great connection to the community.

Sheriff Howard The training would be extremely beneficial for EMS and Fire department so that evidence is not destroyed when they respond.

Chief Schwertfeger: Strategic Plan – if they had proper civilian technicians employed by Wheeling PD. Logging evidence would be done by these evidence technicians

John Lantz: Perhaps 10 – 12 students

John Lantz stated that he found finger printing kits at the Weirton Campus and is having them sent to Wheeling as he plans to introduce how to use them into his classes.

John Lantz asked if the committee would be willing to meet twice a year, once in the spring and then in the fall, especially if the crime scene house comes to fruition.

John Lantz informed the committee that we currently have 7 early entrance students in the program. Enrollment went up and we now have fifty-one students active in the program. West Liberty has one hundred and ten students in their program. John hopes to get the enrollment up into the seventies.

Employment and Internships

John Lantz stated that our program will graduate three or four students this semester.

Everyone on the Committee reported that they are hiring.

Chief Schwertfeger stated that the biggest issue in hiring interns is confidentiality.

Captain Kastigar relayed to the committee that The Sheriff Youth Leadership Academy will be held on the West Liberty Campus

Captain Kastigar The commission can always be approached.

John Lantz replied that he would like to see it kept local as most of our students are from Weirton and Wheeling.

Captain Kastigar stated that interns could possibly be used in the 911 communications and also could serve in security positions.

Officer Faldowski relayed that he is going to offer an Active Shooter event at WVNCC in the spring.

Captain Kastigar stated that he has taught the Run, Hide, Fight in every Ohio County School

Officer Faldowski told the committee that he would like to set up a four hour block with uniformed policemen. He would also like to have it for multiple days. and block off multiple floors at WVNCC.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Judi Hendrickson