

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 2017 – 11:00 AM
Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus – S 260

In Attendance: Dr. Bernardine Carter, Lee County Sheriff's Department; Sgt. Glenn Thompson; Mark Baker, Collier County Sheriff's Office; Dr. Richard Worch, Florida SouthWestern State College; Darryl Aubuchon, State Officer, Lee County Sheriff's Office; John Barkley, Naples Police Department; Dr. Thomas Rath, Interim Dean of the School of Business and Technology; Anthony Rispoti, Florida Gulf Coast University Police Department; Amy Losciale, Cape Coral Police Department; Jaclyn Fordham, Forensic Technician, Cape Coral Police Department; and Jill De Valk, Florida SouthWestern State College.

Welcome and Introductions: Dr. Tom Rath welcomed all participants attending. He stated one of the purposes for advisory committees is to determine what the department is doing well and what we can improve at. If any of the advisory committee members have any questions for him, please feel free to contact him.

Approval of October 27, 2016 Minutes:

Dr. Worch called for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded, all were in favor, and none opposed.

Advisory Board History:

Dr. Worch stated that back to the late 1970's, the Southwest Florida Police Academy had an advisory board and Edison had an advisory committee board as well. Edison offered advanced PSTC/CJSTC training which included mid-management and administrative training. The other classes were offered at the criminal justice academy. In the late 1980's, Edison no longer had certificates to teach advanced courses so all courses went to the criminal justice academy.

Dr. Worch was on the Edison Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Board from 1981 until he left as Sheriff of Charlotte County in 2000. When he started working as a full time faculty member in 2010, the advisory board was still meeting and the Criminal Justice and BAS Public Safety Administration programs were under its own program and Asst. Dean Kim Gresham at the College. When the program merged with the School of Business and Technology in 2013, Dr. Meyer became the Dean. The School of Business and Technology began having one advisory meeting inclusive of all the SoBT programs, with breakout meetings of the disciplines. As a result, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee started floundering for the last five years. Our accrediting body requires 2 yearly advisory committee meetings. In the Spring of 2017 Dean Meyer agreed to allow the Criminal Justice Program to resume its own Advisory Board Meetings.

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee has traditionally had a Chair who runs the meeting. The committee lets us know what the law enforcement community needs in the way of classes and services

that we offer. This model has worked extremely well in the past. Captain Barkley has accepted the Chair position and will be running the meetings two times per year. We have combined the Crime Scene and Criminal Justice to one advisory board.

Recruitment and Marketing Strategies:

At the moment the Public Safety Administration, the Criminal Justice Program, and the Crime Scene Technology Program has no recruitment and/or marketing strategy.

Captain Barkley commented that he graduated from FSW Bachelor of Public Safety Administration program. He is currently in a master's program at the University of Miami and he mentioned that he was well prepared for his master's program.

He wants the meetings to be productive by getting the message out about what is offered at FSW. We need to look at law enforcement as a profession that needs completion of a higher level of education. Every agency in the area has fewer law enforcement officers employed. Their goal is to maintain trust in the community. Online courses are a great way to complete the degree to add to the professional development of the officers.

What is a detriment to enrollment in FSW Criminal Justice programs? Bernie Carter mentioned that getting FSW advising help to her agency has been a problem. Currently, officers with a law enforcement certification may be eligible for 15 credits and officers with a corrections certificate may be eligible for 6 credits after completing 12 credits at FSW first. This should be an incentive for them.

It was discussed that FSW possibly needs to streamline applications and registering processes as much as possible. Would students be able to be advised over the phone, Skype, or Chat? We need to work to eliminate obstacles. Officers need a degree to get promoted and we would like them to complete their degrees at FSW.

Other than Crime Scene Technology, the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Administration courses are all available online. Students may complete these 2 degrees totally online.

Up until 2012, the Public Service Programs at FSW had a recruiter who would attend block training days at the Lee County Sheriff Office, and other agencies. Bernie Carter, who is employed by the LCSO commented that they have 1800 civilian and certified employees that are eligible for education. FSW should be recruiting these employees.

Dr. Worch and the School of Business sent a letter to President Allbritten three years ago in reference to the marketing of the criminal justice programs. We should be marketing the programs to the organizations and agencies in the areas. Marketing ideas discussed include using social media and sending letters to the organization to put in employees' mailboxes.

Other colleges in the area are extremely competitive and aggressive. Columbia Southern, Keiser University, Hodges University, and Rasmussen College are among the colleges in the area who we are competing with FSW. These private schools are able to offer grants and discounts to lure students. Some of the agencies reimburse the cost of officers attending the more expensive schools. It was discussed why the agency's administration would want to know if there are less expensive options. For tuition reimbursement, every school has its own state rate of reimbursement. These schools are

attractive to officers because they offer great customer service. Students never have to go to campus to get started. These schools have streamlined the application process. Students want to know what to do and how to do it to apply and register. Students want everything to be convenient. These other colleges also give credits for life experiences and offers exemptions for entrance tests, which increases the chances officers are going to enroll in the degree where they need to complete the least amount of courses in the least amount of time if they are only looking for a promotion.

The consensus was that FSW needs to visit the agencies and talk to the officers, who talk to each other to get the word out. Students want to know the quickest path to completion. They want to know the steps involved and for the recruiter to have a plan right in front of them. It was suggested that before every semester, FSW should send a representative to the agency. Eliminating obstacles would be beneficial. Bernie Carter mentioned that FSW Admissions did attend training a couple of times in the 4-5 hour window.

Enrollment is down for law enforcement agencies which we used to include cohorts for. The plan and agreement for the advisory board committee members for stronger enrollment is to promote the programs better through social media and to eliminate obstacles in the application and registration processes. Perhaps an FSW liaison could go to the area agencies to speak to law enforcement officers. Simply said, we need to make it easier for students to sign up and to make everyone aware of what FSW has to offer.

Also, as part of a marketing pitch, FSW credibility should be a major proponent. The fact that graduates of our Public Safety Administration BAS are automatically accepted into the Criminal Justice Master's degree program at Florida State University is a great selling point. Private schools prepare students to enroll in their own master's program.

Captain Barkley thanked all participants for attending. He invited everyone to email ideas if they could think of any other strategies. The next meeting to be scheduled in the spring semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM

Meeting minutes interpreted and reported by Jill De Valk