

Law Enforcement Advisory Program Committee Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Location: Room 3201

Present:

Gail Warner, Dean for Health & Public Safety
Brett Houser, Director POST Programs
Kathy Rodriguez, Coordinator for AJ and CSI
Justin Matus, Assistant Chief Investigator, Office of District Attorney Imperial County
Orlando Espino, District Attorney Investigator
Robert Sawyer, Chief of Police for El Centro Police Department
Perry Monita, Chief of Police for Westmorland Police Department
Kelly Brown, Commander for El Centro Police Department
Jonathan Blackstone, Sergeant for Brawley Police Department
Max Sheffield, Captain for Imperial Police Department
Paige Lovitt, Counselor for Imperial Valley College
Jessica Prock, IVC Administrative Secretary for Health & Public Safety
Rhonda Ruiz, IVC Support Staff, Law Enforcement Programs

1. Call to Order

A. Assistant Chief Investigator Justin Matus called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

M/S/C Chief Perry Monita/Chief Robert Sawyer approved the meeting minutes from May 9th, 2023, as submitted.

3. Special Order

A. Curriculum Changes to CSI 55

Coordinator Kathy Rodriguez presented copies of the classes required to obtain a major or certificate for Correctional Science to the committee. She requested input and approval to make changes to CSI 55. The first change she requested was to change CSI 055 to CSI 155. She told the committee that everything in the Correctional Academy would stay the same. The second request was to make CSI 055, when it turns into CSI 155, into an elective for the major of Correctional Science. She further stated that it is an elective for the certificate and is 9.5 units that would help students progress toward their degree. Coordinator Kathy Rodriguez's last request was to add PSY 120 to the Correctional Academy major as an alternative. She explained that class CSI 206, a requirement, does not normally fill and gets canceled. PSY 120 would be an alternative students can take to complete their degree.

Chief Robert Sawyer asked for confirmation if CSI 206 or PSY 120 would meet the requirements for the degree and asked if they would be offered in the same semester.

Coordinator Kathy Rodriguez verified that CSI 206 or PSY 120 would meet the requirements and informed Chief Robert Sawyer that Imperial Valley College would alternate the classes.

Dean Gail Warner clarified that the instructor who teaches PSY 120, Robert Wyatt, has a background in police academy and would be able to accommodate us.

Chief Robert Sawyer made a motion to support the changes, and Chief Monita second. The motion to approve curriculum changes to CSI 55 was passed unanimously.

4. Committee Report Department Heads

A. Specialized Trainings Request

The Brawley Police Department utilized the Imperial Valley College's facilities for Arrest & Control PSP two months ago, and the training turned out well. They were able to assist six or seven agencies that came through the training. Tentatively, on December 11th or 15th, the El Centro Police Department will do the same thing. Reservations have been made. A facilities request was made to accommodate the Brawley Police Department's training; since then, an MOU with the City of El Centro and Imperial Valley College has been set up for the El Centro Police Department to use the Imperial Valley College's facilities. MOUs are being processed so all local law enforcement agencies can do the same. Director House recommended Winter and Summer sessions for their venues.

B. Class Ranking Needs

Director Brett Houser requested the committee to turn to the handout labeled 'IVC POST Academy Individual Grade Record.' In evaluating the past grading system, He divulged that the current grading system is based on a pass-or-fail system depending on the recruit passing the end-of-course TMAS test. Director Houser felt that being in a role as a supervisor, that a recruit passing a test didn't necessarily mean they had performed well nor that the instructors were meeting the expectations that the academy has. After consulting with various departments and academies, he expressed his desire to develop and implement a new grading system with point value. This change aims to provide more comprehensive feedback on student learning outcomes and teaching

success rates within each learning domain. Additionally, Director Houser requested the creation of a class ranking system; Feedback from the committee was requested.

Chief Robert Sawyer and Chief Perry Monita, along with Captain Max Sheffield, all agreed to the proposed changes.

C. LD 32 Four Months (Running Program)

Additional hours have been incorporated into Learning Domain 32 Lifetime Fitness, a mandatory training program. These additional hours will be scheduled for Monday nights, designed as running nights. Recruits' endurance and run times should improve. Physical training, starting November 1st, will now be conducted at the beginning of the class instead of the end to mitigate the risk of injuries caused by colder weather.

D. Performance Improvement Plan Course (8 Hours)

The Department is in the process of developing a non-credit, community-based Performance Improvement Plan Course. It will be an eight-hour course for Supervisors and above for twenty students discussing supervisory and human resource topics by someone in law enforcement. Fees will be required. Committee members requested a copy of the curriculum, and Direct Brett Houser assured them he would send it.

E. AICC Status

Imperial Valley College received approval to host an AICC class; however, three of the four approved instructors backed out, resulting in the inability to proceed. An alternative class, the Training and Testing Specifications Workshop, is currently being developed. This workshop will cover topics such as constructing lesson plans, adult learning theory, and presentation facilitation skills. This will be a twenty-four-hour class. Once approved, it will be considered equivalent to AICC standards.

F. 1070 Needs

In consideration of the Academy's staffing needs, it has been observed that there is a need for additional instructors with expertise in the 1070 specialization. Director Brett Houser has initiated efforts to strengthen the pool of instructors, specifically focusing on areas such as range, arrest and control, cultural diversity, and eventually use of force, which will, in the near future, require a 1070 certification. To address this need, Director Houser sought the committee's input for suitable candidates from their pool of officers.

G. LD 14 Officer Wellness

LD 14 Officer Wellness is a new learning domain added to the Level one Module. This module has been divided up into sections throughout the course. Coordinator Jeff Caudill has undertaken the responsibility of developing the lesson plan and instructing of the module. To facility this addition, eight hours have been added to the Level one to accommodate this learning domain.

H. LD 3 Policing in the Community

The new change to LD 3 Policing in the Community involve an activity in which recruits conduct historical research pertaining to a situation where law enforcement had a significant clash with the community. This activity will include a group presentation, providing an opportunity for instructors to teach students effective communication skills in addressing challenging situations while preventing them from escalating.

I. Growth and Status

It was reported that Imperial valley College issues a law enforcement certificate upon a student's completion of all RBC Modules. Notably, from 2018 to 2020, one certificate was awarded per class; however, in 2021, this number increased to four. Director Houser meet with Counselor Paige Lovitt to enhance student support, resulting in the issuance of eight certificates in 2021. With continued counseling assistance, an impressive 19 out of 21 certificates were awarded in 2022.

Additionally, the meeting highlighted the ongoing Modern Day policing reform AB 89. This reform emphasized the significance of education in law enforcement, with POST actively encouraging education in law enforcement officers. Director Brett Houser has integrated Counselor Paige Lovitt to address certificates and pathways to degrees for recruits during every Level III course.

A total of forty three students started the Level III program this year. Some failed out of CPR/First aid. Two new additions came in to the Level II program, bringing the total to thirty two. There are currently 16 students on the wait list for Level I.

Director Brett Houser actively promoted the Level I program, including outreach efforts at the College of the Desert for recruitment however, the current capacity for Level I at Imperial Valley College stands at 30 and with POSTs cap at 40. Director House expressed his intent to raise the cap for both to 45.

J. Challenge Coins

Funding ideas to purchase challenge coins was presented. With the revamping of the student club, this is possible however, it was stated not to put the full funding burden on the students. Community members recommended asking local associations and rotary clubs for assistance.

K. Family Day

This activity was introduced last year before Learning Domain Officer Wellness was implemented. It is a four-hour block where recruits' families are introduced and informed about what the recruits go through in the program and what they should expect when entering the law enforcement profession. Last year, Clinical Psychologist John Grass from Imperial County Behavior Health and a psychologist from San Diego came in to talk to the families. Three family members were recruited last year. The plan for the June 1st, 2024 event will again include Clinical Psychologist John Grass with the intent to establish sit-down stations where Recruit Training Officers can meet with families to discuss various aspects of the academy and their own career experiences. Families will be encouraged to ask questions. Committee members were invited to add agency-specific activities to the event by contacting Director Brett Houser.

L. Field Training Officer (FTO) Program

The Field Training Officer (FTO) Program familiarizes recruits with the FTO programs used in various police departments. A handout labeled the 'Police Recruit Training Session: Introduction to the Field Training Officer (FTO) Program' was passed out. The Field Training Officer (FTO) program is discussed throughout the academy, with recruits being critiqued. This is a way of building the recruit up so they are ready for critique when entering the local police department's FTO program. Director Houser asked the committee to notify him of any agency-specific training ideas they'd like to implement.

5. Adjournment

M/S/C Assistant Chief Investigator Justin Matus/Chief Perry Monita the meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.