



Criminal Justice

Meeting Date: November 13, 2023

Time: 3:30pm

Location: Virtual/Zoom

External Participants: 2

Jeff Wigg – Deputy Chief of Police- City of Sycamore

Jason Leverton – Commander – Dekalb Police Department

Internal Participants: 4

Chase Budziak – Dean of Instruction

Jescelynne Gibbons – Associate Dean of Instruction

Joseph Przybyla – Criminal Justice Instructor

Scott Farrell – KEC Criminal Justice Instructor

Catherine Macias – Minutes

I. Program Update – (Budziak & Przybyla)

- a. Fall 2023 Enrollment
 - College up 9.4% since last fall
 - CRJ up 122 credit hours (+25.4%) since fall 2022
- b. Department Update - (*Przybyla*)
 - Criminal Law class has a real-life component built in
 - Class spent the afternoon at the Sycamore Courthouse with States Attorney Rick Amado
 - CRJ implemented the degree completion program
 - Accept academy transcripts for college credit
 - Scholarship opportunities available
 - Program benefits those law enforcement candidates that do not have an associate degree
 - Correction Officers have more interest in the Degree Completion Program than sworn officers
- c. Faculty & Staffing (Budziak)
 - Joseph Przybyla is serving as a full-time faculty member, and Kishwaukee staffs anywhere from 3-5 CRJ adjuncts
- d. Spring 2024 Courses and Modalities (Przybyla)
 - Przybyla shared that the two modalities that work best for the criminal justice students are online asynchronous and hybrid
 - CRJ students prefer 8-week versus 16-week courses
 - The CRJ Internship course is the only non-8-week course
 - College is looking for opportunities to possibly convert into an 8-week internship course

II. Employer Feedback & Discussion

- a. Industry Update
- b. Hiring Needs
- c. Course Modalities
 - Kishwaukee Education Consortium, (KEC), Instructor Scott Farrell, shared that the Criminal Justice courses are in-person with no online options
 - The committee shared that most students are working other jobs; the on-line/hybrid with 8-week course options work best and benefit the students
- d. Employment Opportunities/ Internships
 - The committee shared that there are many job opportunities; the issue they are finding is that the applicants are unable to meet the standards for the fitness test
 - Przybyla seconded that most candidates cannot pass the fitness test
 - Suggested that the college could hold the Power test on campus for students to practice
 - Eventually, could Kish be a campus where people could go to test?
 - Closest testing facility is in Joliet; the committee agreed this would be beneficial to offer both students and others
 - Wig shared that the Power Test standards have been lowered and candidates are still unable to pass the test
 - Leverton shared that they have had an increase in the number of applicants that are prepared for the oral interview; candidates arrive on time and are dressed appropriately
 - However, applicants are not being truthful and are failing the polygraph portion of the hiring process
 - Candidates lack writing and speaking skills
- e. Other
 - Budziak shared with the committee that the college removed the 1 credit hour Internship Orientation requirement
 - The committee members were in agreement