



Rio Hondo College
Homeland Security Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 9 a.m., SFS Fire Academy

In Attendance: Tracy Rickman, Yalun Wang, Bryan McKenrick, Mark Yokoyama, Richard Ramirez, Jill Taylor, Dr. Ygnacio “Nash” Flores, Shandra L. McDonald, Kurt Norwood, Don Mason, Tiffany Sanders, Sean Cox, Mike Slavich, Paul Riddle, K. Thomas, Aaron Perez, Bill Weston, and Lisa Lozano

- I. Call to Order - Meeting began at 9:02 am.
- II. Tracy Rickman welcomed everyone for coming and led in introductions around the room from those in attendance. Co-Chairman Dr. Nash Flores also welcomed those for participating in Rio Hondo College’s inaugural Homeland Security Advisory Committee meeting.
- III. Dean Mark Yokoyama welcomed everyone and spoke about the prospects for the Homeland Security program.
- IV. Program Overview:
 - a. A Program Overview of the Rio Hondo College Homeland Security program was led by Dr. Ygnacio Flores who started with a brief history of Homeland Security and how it has developed over the past 17 years. The state of California has been slow to develop any Homeland Security programs compared to the east coast states.
 - b. The California Community College Chancellor’s Office, Public Safety Advisory Committee has declared that the Homeland Security field is the fastest growing discipline in all public safety sectors and there is a need to grow the programs throughout California community colleges.
 - c. Dr. Flores mentioned that his discussions with the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee has fully supported the development of a Homeland Security Degree program. There has also been discussion on the possibility of Rio Hondo College being the best community college to offer a Bachelor of Science in Homeland Security should the opportunity become available in the future.
 - d. It has taken Rio Hondo College three years to develop a Homeland Security Degree program. The Homeland Security program builds on the current Police/Law Enforcement, Fire Technology and EMT programs in Public Safety. Rio Hondo College is one of the few colleges that offers all three Public Safety programs. Rio Hondo College’s reputation for presenting degree, certificate and professional educational

and professional courses has resulted in the Homeland Security and Protective Services programs being ranked 20th in nation.

- e. Don Mason has been very active in Homeland training and stated that he has attended several National Homeland Security seminars and events. Don Mason reiterated how Rio Hondo College's reputation in the nation is strong and that the absence of a degree in Homeland Security is the only program this college lacks.

V. Curriculum Development:

- a. Citrus College became the first Community College to start a Homeland Security Certificate/Degree program. Cypress College has now developed a certificate program in their Aviation & Travel Careers department. There are not enough Homeland Security training centers in California. At the moment there are only 6 Training Centers in the state, with Rio's Santa Fe Springs Fire Academy being one of them that is ready for use.
- b. Developing the Associate Science Degree Program: Dr. Flores presented the shaping of the Degree Program and who it would serve along with the AS in Homeland Security Degree program.
 - i. For the incoming new Freshmen students, we would provide an Academic Foundation in this field.
 - ii. Reskilling those people who are interested in a new career.
 - iii. Public Safety professionals who desire more extensive training to add to their skills—skills extension.
 - iv. Individuals seeking FEMA Third-Party Certification, such as FEMA IS-453 – Introduction to Homeland Security Planning.
 - v. Dr. Flores presented the Associate of Science Degree in Homeland Security requirements. This included Core Requirements along with the Elective Requirements as per the Associate of Science in Homeland Security Degree program approved by the Rio Hondo College Curriculum Committee.
- c. Certificate of Achievement Program: Dr. Flores presented the shaping of the Certificate in Homeland Security program and who it would serve along with the Certificate in Homeland Security program.
- d. Dr. Flores presented the Certificate of Achievement in Homeland Security requirements. This included Core Requirements along with the Elective Requirements as per the Certificate of Achievement in Homeland Security Degree program approved by the Rio Hondo College Curriculum Committee.

VI. Feedback on Current Homeland Course HMLD 101 Introduction to Homeland Security:

- a. Dr. Flores discussed the feedback that he has received from the students that have taken his HMLD 101 course. There was a call for the Homeland Security courses to be offered in online and hybrid formats in addition to the traditional format.
- b. He introduced student Yalun Wang, who authored the article: "Immigrants are Veterans Too". Mr. Wang spoke on how this course has helped him as a veteran and immigrant. Mr. Wang felt that more Online and Hybrid classes need to be offered. He also stated that Police personnel learn Penal Codes and arrest procedures but could benefit with learning more about structure and strategies with Homeland Security courses. He also stated that the HMLD 101 course helped him immensely when being interviewed for employment with the Department of Homeland Security.

VII. Committee Discussion & Review:

- a. Dr. Flores along with Dean of Career & Technical Education, Mike Slavich, discussed the possible jobs that students would be eligible for when completing certification and degree programs. Dean Slavich felt that these programs would best suit post graduates looking to add skills to their degrees.
- b. Dean Slavich asked if there was a need for a Homeland Security Degree; specifically, can someone get hired with a Homeland Security Degree:
 - i. Committee members that supported a degree in Homeland Security were Major Bryan McKenrick, Department of Homeland Security; Richard Ramirez, Retired Investigator, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Chief Kurt Norwood, City of Sierra Madre FD; Dr. Shandra McDonald, Department of Homeland Security; and Mr. Bill Weston, Care Ambulance.
 - ii. Major Bryan McKenrick, Department of Homeland Security and Dr. Shandra McDonald, Department of Homeland Security said that federal hiring regulations did not allow the singling out of any one degree in hiring; however, that a Degree in Homeland Security would strengthen an applicant's chances of being hired. Mr. Bill Weston from CARE Ambulance specifically pointed out how the embedded FEMA certificates in the core courses were certificates they used in hiring and promoting personnel in their organization.
- c. Mike Slavich opened up discussion on the value of allowing credits from the Rio Hondo College Police, Fire and Wildland Fire Academies as part of the Elective Units

for the degree program. After discussion, Tracy Rickman moved to “*Remove the three academies from the Elective Units for the Degree Program*”. Mike Slavich seconded the motion. **In a unanimous vote**, the Advisory Committee voted to remove the academies units from the Homeland Security Degree program.

- d. The Committee also showed there was a need for the Certificate of Achievement in Homeland Security by unanimous agreement.
- e. The committee discussed which areas of Homeland Security should the Rio Hondo College program concentrate on?
 - i. Emergency Management
 - ii. Terrorism
 - iii. Homeland Security versus Homeland Defense
 - iv. Or a Blended area of all three
 - v. After discussion, the program will continue to be a blended program that will meet the needs of the Bachelor of Science Degrees in Homeland Security at National University and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, two universities that Dr. Flores is working with for articulation agreements since the University of California and California State University systems do not have a four-year degree in homeland security.

VIII. Open Forum for Discussion:

- a. Some of the participants felt other areas should be included in Homeland Security courses. Jill Taylor from the Port of Los Angeles felt that Cyber Security should definitely be a part of the core courses offered.
- b. Dr. Flores informed the committee that he has already started to build a course on Cybersecurity: Policy and Practice that would be part of the Homeland Security Degree program as well the Degree in Cybersecurity in the Business Division.
- c. Dr Shandra McDonald from DHS/TSA mentioned that information on Human Trafficking might also be included as part of Homeland Security courses. Dr. Flores mentioned that it could be explored in a course on Human Security.

IX. Closing Comments:

- a. Committee will meet in another 6 months.

X. Meeting adjourned at 11:01 am.