



Merritt College Counseling Department

Counselor Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2006

Meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. In attendance: Zielke, Scurry, Shriver, Pantell, Papini, DeCoursey. Guest: Margaret Dixon, Administration of Justice.

- ADJUS Program update** Dixon presented on current status of ADJUS program and Police and Fire Pre-Academies. ADJUS program is in process of being revitalized w/ hiring of Dixon as full-time faculty. Will be offering many more ADJUS courses in M06 and F06. Re: Police Pre-Academy, series of courses designed to prepare applicants to Police Academy to be more successful. Our courses are NOT required for academy, nor are they to be seen as pre-reqs. Successful completion of courses does not give applicants to Oakland Police Academy any guarantee of admission, or even an advantage, but it does prepare them to be more successful in the hiring process. Merritt courses designed to give students writing skills, communication skills, English usage skills, etc. To apply, must be 20.5 years old and have either high school diploma or GED (no local or even state residency requirement). Application process for Oakland Police Academy are: 1) pass written exam (English, math, grammar, etc.); 2) then pass physical exam (running, fitness, stamina, drag 160 lb. dummy approx 100 yds., but no minimum height or weight requirement--anyone in good shape can pass); 3) then pass oral interview (panel of officers local and non-local; given scenarios and asked to explain how they'd handle; write short paragraph explaining why want to be police officer, etc.); 4) then pass rigorous background check (NOTE: having a prior felony is NOT an immediate disqualification--different types of felonies viewed differently on a case-by-case basis); 5) then pass medical physical (heart rate, blood pressure, vision, etc.); 6) then go on priority hiring list and chosen as vacancies occur. If fail one part of application process, don't have to start over at beginning--can start at portion that was failed. When approx 30 - 40 successful applicants are pooled, OPD starts an academy (not at regular intervals). Next academy is October, 2006. Academy is 6 months, 5 dpw, and cadets are paid and already hired when enter academy. OPD only hires cadets who complete their academy (other PDs hire applicants who have completed POST academies at other community colleges such as Napa and Santa Rosa). Even if don't make it into academy, students who complete Merritt ADJUS courses are competitive for positions in corrections field (i.e. loss prevention, security, jailer, coroner's office, records specialist, forensics, etc.).
- Articulation Report** Pantell gave report outlined in Articulation Notes of this date. 2 key items were changes to English courses effective S07 and LVN program discontinuing eligibility for ENGL 1A and MATH 201 as prerequisites for entry into program. Agreement that, since we've been advising students according to current LVN admissions criteria, we would continue to do so for next class to maintain consistency unless directed by LVN program to do otherwise.
- New Business**
 - Zielke reported on plans for some Latino groups to boycott schools and businesses May 1--at individual student and instructor discretion--to raise awareness about recent issues related to immigration.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.