

**ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD
4500 South 6th Street Road, Room 173, Springfield, IL 62703-6617**

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

**Mobile Team Unit #15, 1740 Innovation Drive, Suite 232, Carbondale, IL
February 21, 2018**

I. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The February 21, 2018 special meeting of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board was held in Carbondale, Illinois, and was called to order by Chairman Hartshorn at 1:23 p.m. Roll was called by Ellen Petty and no quorum of Board members could be established. In the absence of a quorum, the Board cannot take official action on any matters before it. However, the Board is authorized to proceed and address the subject matters stated in the agenda.

Members in attendance:

Pat Hartshorn
Brian Fengel
Richard Watson
Paul Williams
Ron Blumenfeld for Dorothy Brown
Marie Rangel for Thomas Dart
Keith Calloway for Eddie Johnson
Leo Schmitz

Members absent:

Tim Gleason
Timothy Becker
Timothy Nugent
J.W. Price
Valerie Salmons
John Schlaf
Lisa Madigan
Michael Schlosser

Staff in attendance:

Brent Fischer
Eric Pingolt
Patrick Connolly
John Keigher
Lee Ryker
Denise Matthew
Ellen Petty

Others in attendance:

Jim O'Grady – IL State Police
David Rednour – MTU 15

Tramell Henderson – Chicago Police Department
Benjamin Newman – SIU Department of Public Safety
John Allen – SIU Department of Public Safety
Chuck Doan – MTU 15
Kim Cramer – MTU 15

II. DISCUSSION OF SIU ACADEMY PROPOSAL

A. Impressions of Facility

Chairman Hartshorn went around the room, asking each Board member to share his/her comments on the morning's tour of the "Touch of Nature" facilities. The comments made were all very similar, in that the Board members liked the concept in theory, but that the facilities they toured that morning needed to be updated before an academy class could be offered there, which would take a considerable capital investment. There was concern that due to SIU's current financial woes, as have been reflected in the news recently, sufficient funds may not be available to make the updates required to get up and running to the Board's satisfaction, and no proof of such funds has yet been offered.

B. Format of the Courses and Academy Training

John Keigher gave some background of pre-service and intern programs in the Board's history, including previous attempts at such programs in the past by SIU itself. The current iteration of the Board's intern program began in 1997, after the Board worked closely with the Board of Higher Education to develop it. In the past 21 years, 173 individuals have gone through the program, 116 of them were still active in law enforcement 10 years after graduating from the program, and 15 of them were never hired by a law enforcement agency.

Currently, SWIC is the only academy offering the intern program, though others have expressed an interest in doing so, but participation in the program has dwindled to 4-15 qualified applicants per year. Under current JCAR rules, in order to attend the program, applicants must be at least 21 years of age, pass the POWER test, have achieved an Associate's Degree, pass a background check performed by ILETSB staff, and must be hired by a law enforcement agency within 2 years of completion of the academy. Actual certification as a law enforcement officer is conditional upon obtaining employment with a law enforcement agency, and expires after 2 years if that condition is not met. Applicants must also show proof of sufficient health/medical insurance, as they are not covered under an agency's worker's comp insurance policy as normal recruits are. Applicants are required to possess a FOID card and an Illinois Driver's License (which would prevent out-of-state or foreign nationals from participating in the program). In addition, interns are only allowed to take the certification exam two times in an attempt to pass, rather than the three times allowed for normal recruits.

WIU previously ran a Police Corps program, which was federally funded, and slightly different, in that students were hired by an agency in advance of obtaining their degree, and it was not a standalone academy class, but rather the academy curriculum was

peppered into the degree program throughout the four years. Approximately 200 students went through that program in a 5-7 year period.

The Act would need to be tweaked in order to allow for the program to operate the way SIU has proposed it thus far, or alternatively, SIU would need to adjust their proposal to comply with current JCAR.

C. Follow Up Questions to be Presented to SIU

Chairman Hartshorn asked for input on a series of follow up questions to be posed to SIU in order to clarify their intent and ability to fund the proposed pre-service academy. Recommendations were as follows:

It was suggested that Board staff address the legislative requirements with SIU for their consideration, based on Keigher's research into the Board's (and SIU's) prior history with such programs, and what is allowable and not allowable under current laws.

What amount of startup capital is SIU able and willing to guarantee for the project? The Board would need to see proof that sufficient funds are available and earmarked to get the Touch of Nature facilities updated to the Board's satisfaction prior to approval, and that sufficient funds will be available to maintain the program once it is up and running.

The Board needs a firm idea of how SIU envisions mixing recruits and pre-service, and how that will work logistically, in order to allow the Board to decide if approval will be given for mixing the two groups in the academy. In addition, after hearing that the current academies are not maxed out as has been previously suggested, the Board may decide to go with an option to approve the program as pre-service only, for now – and wait to see what happens with PTI at the end of the current 3-year agreement before including recruits to the mix. This is also seen as offering more of a service to the pre-service students, and would be a draw to SIU's criminal justice program.

The Board needs clarification on whether college transfers can enter into the pre-service program, for instance, from WIU or ISU, and at what point in their college career would a transfer be allowed? Do the students have to have a declared criminal justice major or can they minor in criminal justice with another major?

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Director Fischer thanked everyone for taking the time to travel and come to the tour of the facilities and the special meeting, and thanked Chief Grubbs for the events of the day for the group. He indicated that he would circulate the questions from this meeting prior to the March Board meeting, and include any additional questions posed by Board members and staff, and setup a meeting with Chancellor Montemagno after the March Board meeting to go over everything.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Hartshorn declared the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

