



Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Greg Dozier
Commissioner

Instructional Faculty Consortium Committee (IFCC)

Fire Science Technology Minutes

Date: August 29, 2022

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: GA Public Safety Training Center (Firefighter Training Complex)

Meeting Facilitator: Karen Nowakowski

Attendees

- 1) Karen Nowakowski- Program Director, Lanier Technical College
- 2) Corbett Davis- Program Coordinator, Atlanta Technical College
- 3) Donald Town- Fire Science Technology Department Head , Savannah Technical College
- 4) Zina Gresham- Program Director, GA Piedmont Technical College
- 5) Frank Flanigan- Program Director, Albany Technical College
- 6) Brian Wolfe- Augusta Technical College
- 7) Jerimiah Clemmons- Program Director, Augusta Technical College
- 8) Chief Ike McConnell- , GA Firefighter Academy (GFA)
- 9) Randy Toms- Director of GFSTC, GA Firefighter Standards & Training Council (GFSTC)
- 10) Chris Coogle- West GA Technical College
- 11) Rosanna Dove- Public Safety Department Chair, Southern Crescent Technical College

Agenda Topics/Discussion

Agenda Items	Discussion
<i>Welcome</i>	Karen Nowakowski welcomed all members and special guests. She asked everyone to introduce themselves. After introductions, Karen explained the purpose of the meeting as an IFCC and the imperativeness of ensuring that the KMS standards are aligned with GPSTC & GFSTC.
<i>GA Firefighter Academy (GFA)</i>	<p>Chief McConnell introduced himself once more and explained the purpose of the GA Firefighter Academy (GFA). GFA is an agency within the GA Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC), and its core mission is basic firefighter training. GFA collaborates with GFSTC to ensure that the GFA courses meet the GFSTC and national standards. Chief McConnell explained that if the group decided to revise their curriculum to align with or become a carbon copy of the GFA courses, they could do that.</p> <p>He stated the importance of building a strong partnership between GFA and the technical colleges throughout GA and the need to keep our students within the state to further their education. Chief McConnell stated that GFA wants to see a feeder program in the technical colleges. At this time, GPSTC does not provide credit for</p>

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	<p>FRSC courses, but it would be an easier process for the technical colleges to provide prior learning credit for the GFA courses, through the creation of the feeder program.</p>
<p>GA Firefighter Standards & Training Council (GFSTC)</p>	<p>Mr. Randy Toms reintroduced himself and explained the purpose of the GA Firefighter Standards & Training Council (GFSTC). GFSTC is a separate agency from GPSTC & GFA. The mission of GFSTC is to consult, test and certify. Mr. Toms provided the group with his personal story of his educational background and career path.</p> <p>He explained that although he was successful with his career path, it was challenging to overcome obstacles due to his personal & educational struggles and the design of the Fire Science educational pathway. He further stated that many students identify with these same obstacles, and there is a need for the Fire Science educational programs to be aligned with GPSTC & GFSTC.</p> <p>He stated the importance of having programs that provide degree completion. Mr. Toms stated that GFSTC would like to send students for state testing to the technical colleges due to the obstacles his agency has experienced only utilizing the regional testing sites. He explained that having testing test sites beyond the regional sites for completion of the computer-based testing will help elevate some of the complaints, such as limited testing dates & time availability, the limited amount of testers at one time, and the location of regional sites in comparison to the location of the tester.</p> <p>Karen asked the group what roadblocks could be the determining factor in ensuring the technical colleges are additional testing sites for GFSTC. There were responses such as equipment availability, software availability, timing, and proper steps with the Economic Development division of the college. Mr. Toms stated that GFSTC is willing to look further into the possibility of allowing computer-based testing beyond their regional sites.</p> <p>Mr. Toms began discussing the validation process required by GFSTC. He stated that there is a group of GFA & GFSTC employees who work together to review the GFA courses, the testing questions, etc. The purpose of this review is to ensure that everything is aligned with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Mr. Toms stated that it would be helpful to have additional volunteers participate in the validation process.</p> <p>Karen asked what steps should be taken if any TCSG Fire Science faculty would like to be part of the validation process. Mr. Toms stated that anyone interested could email him their request. Karen thanked Chief McConnell and Mr. Toms for their time and willingness to expand their partnerships with the Technical College System of GA.</p>

**TCSG
Information
& Updates**

Sasha Kahiga reintroduced herself and presented the group with a PowerPoint.

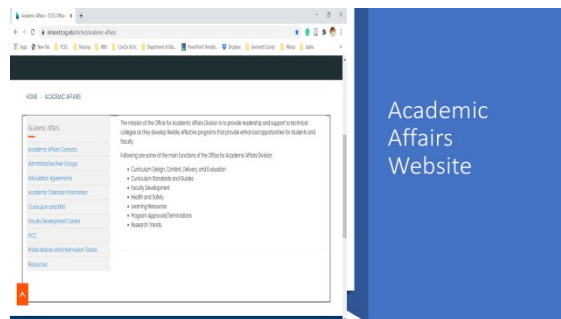
IFCC Overview

- Instructional Faculty Consortium Committee
- Access to the firesci-1@list.tcsg.edu
- Meets annually
- Must have a Chair and Co-Chair
- Review of total operations of a standard program
- Access to detailed IFCC guidelines, meeting agendas & minutes:
<https://intranet.tcsg.edu/teched/academic-affairs/ifcc/>

Sasha explained to the group the purpose of an IFCC and the responsibilities of the Chair & Co-Chair. She stated that Karen Nowakowski (Lanier Tech) is the Chair, and Frank Flanigan (Albany Tech) is the Co-Chair. Sasha provided the group with information on accessing the IFCC listserv and reviewing the IFCC guidelines, meeting agendas, and meetings.

Listserv: firesci-1@list.tcsg.edu


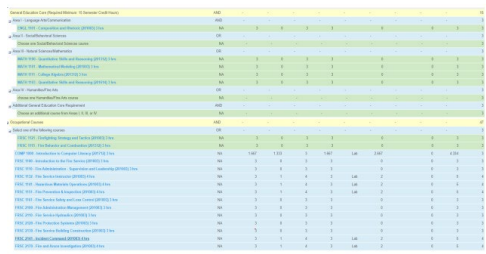
IFCC Webpage: <https://intranet.tcsg.edu/teched/academic-affairs/ifcc/>



Sasha reviewed the TCSG website and discussed the TCSG Academic Affairs department. She provided an overview of the difference between an Information Ticker and a PROBE. To further explain, Sasha stated that IFCC initiates an information ticket and/or a PROBE for program standards based on the number of changes made to the program/course hours & overall standards. Sasha informed the group that the faculty development center could be found on the AA.

The faculty development center is where training events can be found. Training sessions such as Phase I, Phase II & KMS are on the page. The group asked when the next KMS training would be, and Sasha informed the group that the training would be conducted by the AA Director, Steve Conway, each quarter. She stated that when the details are emailed to the deans, she typically forwards the information to all of her IFCC listservs.

Academic Affairs Webpage: <https://intranet.tcsg.edu/teched/academic-affairs/>

	<div data-bbox="402 346 1347 619">  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular lab is any learning activity that is not specifically designated as a lecture. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher assist in learning activities, requires a little out-of-class preparation by the student and may require out-of-class practice assignments Other lab can be defined as either a practicum, internship or clinical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practicum is instruction which emphasizes structured activities requiring application and practice of occupational competencies. Internship/Clinical is instruction which emphasizes supervised work-experience activities requiring the application of occupational competencies. <div data-bbox="950 388 1347 609"> <h3>Credit/Contact Hour Calculation</h3> <p>Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratio of 1:1 A total of 750mins= 15 contact hrs= 1 credit hr <p>Regular Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratio of 2:1 A total of 1500mins= 30 contact hrs= 1 credit hr <p>Other Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practicum/Internship/Clinical Ratio of 3:1 A total of 2250mins= 45 contact hrs= 1 credit hr </div> <p>Sasha explained to the group changes that have occurred within the KMS over the past three (3) years. Sasha pointed out that the three (3) main categories & their calculation with a course remained but were titled differently. Category 1 stays with the Lecture title and remains at a 1:1 ratio. Category 2 is no longer titled Lab 2 and is now titled <i>Regular Lab</i> at the same ratio of 2:1. Lastly, Category 3 is no longer titled Lab 3 and is not titled <i>Other Lab</i> at the same ratio of 3:1.</p> <p>Sasha further explained that the <i>Regular Lab</i> category must be identified as a Lab, and the <i>Other Lab</i> category must be identified as either a Practicum, Internship, or Clinical. Sasha provided the group with the TCSG policy & procedure manual definition of a practicum, internship, and clinical.</p>  <p>Sasha presented the group with the overall FS12: Firefighter/EMSP program standards as a reference when reviewing program standards and courses in detail. She further stated that proposed revisions should be based on the programmatic accreditation agency, regulatory body and/or the national examination board. During the review process, Sasha noted that the group must ensure that while following the standards set by their accrediting body, they must also follow the policies of TCSG. Sasha asked the group if there were any questions, and there were none.</p> </div>
<p>Program Discussion</p>	<p>Karen discussed updating the curriculum to match GFSTC standards based on the current National Professional Qualifications (NPQ) validation and testing processes. Frank Flannigan expressed concern about changing the curriculum due to regional needs and course delivery. Randy Toms stated that GFSTC recognizes that each part of the state has different needs, but the standardized course curriculum offered by TCSG should match with the curriculum taught by GFA and tested by GFSTC. The overall consensus from the consortium agreed with the same sentiments and decided to begin addressing the changes once GFSTC and GFA begin the new validation processes.</p>

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<p><i>Additional Discussions</i></p>	<p>Ike McConnell expressed his support for TCSG fire science programs to join in marketing ventures during state fire conferences. Ike discussed his desire to keep higher education within the state of Georgia’s college system. Ike stated that the certificate programs are great; however, TCSG does not market the fire science degree program in a manner that is competitive with universities that are close in proximity to Georgia. Program chairs will discuss attendance and resources needed to attend conferences when posted.</p> <p>Corbett Davis proposed to assess fees during fire science labs. The consortium did not feel that an assessment outside the standard lab fees needed to be added as this would add additional costs to the student.</p> <p>Karen reminded everyone that the SkillsUSA competition has a firefighting component. She urged all colleges to participate and become involved in the technical standards. Frank Flannigan discussed his previous participation and involvement and encouraged everyone to become involved.</p> <p>Karen initiated discussions to promote specific positions on the consortium. A secretary position will be designated during the next meeting.</p>
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Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Minutes submitted by: Karen Nowakowski