

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council Minutes of March 16, 2016

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met on March 16, 2016 at Utah Fire and Rescue Academy, Provo, Utah.

Welcome Council Members and Visitors – Scott Spencer

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. – Scott Spencer

In attendance: Brett Ostler, Paul Bedont, Don Adams, Craig Stanley, Merlin Spendlove, Rod “Hoss” Tomkinson, Ray Stokes, Chris Trevino and Scott Spencer

Excused: Jason Earl; proxy Chris Trevino, Dave Youngberg; proxy Paul Bedont, and Shane Freeman

Visitors: Brad Wardle, Ted Black, and Hugh Conner

Declaration of quorum – Scott Spencer

Scott Spencer declared the presence of a quorum.

Approval of minutes from the meeting of January 5, 2016 meeting – Scott Spencer

No corrections were made to the Minutes. Brett Ostler motioned to approve the Minutes, Ray Stokes seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of Agenda for the March 16, 2016 meeting – Scott Spencer

Ray Stokes motioned to approve the agenda, Don Adams seconded. The motion passed.

Appointment of Council Member – Scott Spencer

Shane Freeman was re-appointed to the Certification Council for three more years. Scott Spencer introduced a new Council Member, Captain Rod “Hoss” Tomkinson from Logan Fire and BATC.

Testing/Certification and Failed Skills Report – Jennifer Lindley

Jennifer reviewed each of the reports with Council members. She pointed out the drop in exams and certifications in January but that over 1200 exams had been scheduled for March.

Report on Standards and Training Council –Ray Stokes

Ray had nothing to report.

Wildland Issues and Updates – Brett Ostler

Brett reported the following updates:

- Wild Fire Policy has passed through the House and Senate unopposed. Will take effect Jan 1, 2017
- Funding Bill was approved
- Drone Bill did not pass however, a subset of the bill did which made it illegal to send up drones when a wild fire is called in to dispatch and relayed to the surrounding area.
- Mike Ulibarri from UFA accepted a position with FFSL.
- Fire Refresher courses are in full swing in preparation for recertification season.
- Engine academies are being held right now

Executive Session –Scott Spencer

Scott called for a motion to convene to the Executive Session. Don Adams motioned. Craig Stanley seconded. The motion passed. All non-essential persons were excused.

As a result of the Executive Session:

Paul Bedont motioned that due to procedural errors in the previous Council meeting (Jan 2016), that the motion to deny the students a third attempt should be withdrawn and that the issue should be re-addressed at the next Council meeting. Brett Ostler seconded. The motion passed. Ray Stokes motioned to withdraw the motion from the previous Council meeting (Jan 2016) which states, “That they cannot re-enter the testing process until they re-take the HazMat Operations class.” Brett Ostler seconded. The motion passed.

Paul Bedont motioned to withdraw the motion from the previous Council meeting (Jan 2016) that states, “To suspend the tester’s privileges to proctor for one year”. Brett Ostler seconded. The motion passed.

Ray Stokes motioned to withdraw the motion from the previous Council meeting (Jan 2016) that states, “To suspend the In-house testing privileges for the department-Parowan, for one year”.

Paul Bedont seconded. The motion passed.

Lori requested that Ray Stokes and Paul Bedont write up reports concerning the findings of this issue and submit them to be added to the case file.

Discussion on evolution based testing –Brad Wardle

Brad presented a proposal to the Council of “Evolution Based Testing”. This testing would be done in conjunction with training- in- context. It would be based on how a candidate executes a core concept and/or skill level, connecting or integrating each skill level and/or concept as it would be used in a real life scenario. The testing concept would evolve over a five year time frame.

The Council members offered opinions and comments. Scott Spencer asked all those who would be in favor of exploring “Evolution Based Testing” to say “Aye”. All Council members said “Aye”.

Discussion on what an affiliated organization is – Lori Howes

Lori asked if the Council would clarify what an Affiliated, Non-affiliated, and Participating agency is, who does UFRA/ the Certification Council serve, and to define at what levels does each agency certify or re-certify.

After some discussion, Scott Spencer suggested that the Council would put together some verbiage as to show what agencies UFRA/the Certification Council currently serves and at what

levels they can certify or re-certify with special attention to Hazardous Materials. The Council will present this information for further discussion at the next meeting.

Discussion on Hazardous Materials Certificates – Lori Howes

Lori proposed that the wording on the HazMat Certificates be changed from “First Responder Awareness” and “First Responder Operations” to be in line with NFPA wording “Hazardous Materials Awareness” and “Hazardous Material Operations”. Approval from the HazMat Advisory Committee has already been given. She also requested adding the NFPA level and current edition to **all** certification level certificates. The Council was in favor of the changes and will vote on it in Policies and Procedures.

Report on 2016 Certification Tester Seminar – Lori Howes

Lori reported that there were 129 testers in attendance, the number is down a little from the previous year. Lori said overall the seminars went well and that Tester and Instructor updates will continue to be part of the presentations. Lori is not planning on doing an update seminar.

Update on Technical Rescue: Swift Water, Surface Water and Ice –Lori Howes

Lori reported that she has volunteer names for each of the TR committees and that packets will be sent out to each committee to begin writing test questions for the test banks. Lori said the amount of test questions will vary with each level. Her goal is to have the test banks completed in May for approval by the Council so they can be accredited at the Site visit.

Update on ARFF Standard – Lori Howes

Lori reported that at the last Council meeting she planned on waiting until the fall before updating the standard, however because IFSTA has a new test bank available she is going to move forward with updating the Standard so it can be ready for approval by the Council in May. Paul Bedont is the Council rep for the committee.

Discussion and Motion of Officer II Project for Mike Slater- Ray Stokes

Ray reported that Mike Slater’s presentation was very good and felt like he should be approved for his Officer II certification. Ray motioned that the Officer II project for Mike Slater is now complete and he is approved for his Officer II certification. Paul Bedont seconded. The motion passed.

Discussion and Motion on updated Policies and Procedures –Lori Howes

Ray motioned to change the verbiage on the Certification Level Certificates as proposed by Lori. (See Discussion on Hazardous Materials Certificates) Chris Trevino seconded. The motion was approved.

Discussion and motion on submitted petitions – Lori Howes

There were no petitions submitted.

New Business – Scott Spencer

- Lori reported that the IFSAC site visit is scheduled for June 7-9 on site at UFRA. Lori knows two of the Site team members, one is from Nova Scotia and the other is from Alabama. Lori will be submitting the Site Visit worksheets and criteria today which is just shy of the 90 day deadline. There are still correlation sheets that are not complete, IFSAC will still accept them as they are completed. Lori is hoping to have all correlation sheets completed by the end of March. Lori feels very good about where things are and is confident with the preparations.
- Ray Stokes proposed adding a Contingency Anchor as a safety precaution for training during Rope Rescue Skills, to the Standard. This proposal will be added to the agenda in May.
- Hugh Conner updated the Council about UFRA and Utah Valley University's new partnership (contract) with Advanced Technical and Educational Consultants (ATEC). ATEC primarily teaches various Technical Rescue levels as well as HazMat Awareness through Technician. ATEC chose the UFRA site because of its ideal location in the western states area. They will be building an on-site training facility at UFRA to be used for small to high volume training of candidates from outside of Utah. Classes will range from 50 to 500 candidates. There will be no cost to UFRA or UVU; all construction, student training, certifications, use of UFRA facilities (classrooms, etc), will be paid by ATEC. They will have access to the UVU Culinary Arts department for meals as well as UFRA Logistics department, as necessary. When the facility is not being used for outside training it will be available at no charge to Utah fire departments and Technical Rescue teams. Construction for the facility is tentatively scheduled to start in April or May. The structure will be such that it can be broken down and transported to a new location if the need arises. A contract has already been signed with UVU and training should begin in the fall.

Old Business – Scott Spencer

There was no old business.

Next Council Meeting , Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 10:00 a.m. at UFRA, Provo, UT

Merlin Spendlove motioned to adjourn the meeting. Hoss Tomkinson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.