

College of DuPage
Meeting

April 10, 2015

Attendees

Karen Anderson
Ann Knoedler
Brian Durham
Kris Pickford
Nathan Wilson
Matt Berry

Issue

ICCB was contacted by the Tribune regarding an anonymous complaint that College of DuPage is artificially inflating enrollment numbers. An ICCB review of the complaint's claims brought to light the possibility that COD is requesting reimbursement from the state for credits that the college is not incurring more than 50% of the cost.

This staff meeting is being conducted to determine what violations, if any, have been committed by College of DuPage.

Discussion

The Tribune and COD have called numerous times to see what the progress is on the issue. Dr. Anderson has stated that ICCB's investigation is to be thorough and not dictated by the Tribune or COD.

The purpose of this meeting is to share information found so far and discuss the next steps.

Kris Pickford:

The courses/program in question is with regards to the Police Training Academy, which is held at the college but not in Academic control of the college. To the ICCB's staff knowledge, the police academy's instructors are not part of the college faculty. However, this will need to be verified.

The cadets, upon graduation, begin their employment. The cadets do not pay for the training. This training is being paid by the municipality and the State. They have been awarded 13 COD credits up until this point. Now, the cadets are going to receive 21 COD credits. Dan Maloney, the program director, expressed his concerns on the increase in credit hours due to the lack of instruction to support the increase.

NOTE: MOST of the email correspondence anonymously turned in to the ICCB has been between Dan Maloney and Thomas Brady.

NOTE: ICCB staff will request clarification on who Mr. Maloney is employed by, the police academy directly or by COD. Who pays for the rest of the instructor's salaries?

Another distinct concern of Dan Maloney's is the fact that he was asked to sign off on each cadet's midterm as the instructor. His superior told him to do so.

Kris discussed the possibility that COD was creating "ghost classes" with Mr. Maloney as the instructor. These classes had a section code starting with SL1 and mirrored their other classes under the criminal justice program.

Dr. Anderson posed the question if the credit was being awarded for the new course or a separate section of the existing criminal justice.

Answer: In a separate section. These are listed under the same courses already listed in the course catalog and populated with prior learning credits. They were also submitted for reimbursement in three (3) funding streams:

1. Baccalaureate
2. Business
3. Health - CPR

The staff members who submit the data to SU/RS would not know the difference of what should or should not be submitted for credit since the midterm verifications and finals were completed (even though students never attended)

It seems that none of the criminal justice faculty has any knowledge of the practice of awarding COD credits for the Police Training Academy. ICCB staff needs to make sure that no COD staff falsified documents.

If the SU/RS claim is not adjusted and the Police Training Academy credits removed, the financial impact of 2016 reimbursement would be \$78,788.

When the college submits for reimbursement, the instructor's social security number must be listed. It was suggested that an issue like the one being investigated could be flagged within the system if the same social security number is used for numerous courses at a time, for more courses than one instructor could actually be teaching at one time. For example, if a program director is listed as instructor for all courses.

NOTE: Three years ago, during a recognition visit, ICCB discovered that the college was submitting every student enrolled in each course for reimbursement, even if that student was not actively pursuing the class any longer. If the student did not physically remove themselves from the course, the instructor would document the students that were not actively pursuing the class, but the college was still submitting them all for reimbursement. The college ended up having to reduce the credit hour claim by 28,240 which is about 10 times larger than the projected loss in the Police Training Academy investigation (2,643).

NEXT STEPS

There are enough questions to require ICCB to do an on-site investigation:

1. Clarify/verify – how the instructors for the police academy are paid. Thru the college or police?
2. Clarify/verify – the roll of instructors of police academy in relation to the college.
3. Acquire and review - the class rosters for the SL1 courses identified that the cadets are being enrolled in.
4. Acquire and review – midterms and finals submitted for the cadets enrolled in the identified courses.
5. Identify - who is listed as the instructors and who verified students as actively pursing?
6. Acquire and review – list of graduates from the police academy,
7. Acquire and review – all transcripts of each cadet.

NOTE: if a violation is discovered, then another investigation should be conducted on their Phys Ed courses, Dual Enrollment, or other areas of concern.

A member of the Executive Staff should be involved in the on-site investigation.