



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

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FEPAC Interim Meeting July 23, 2021

At the July 23, 2021 FEPAC Interim Meeting, the FEPAC reviewed and completed the following actions:

FEPAC Standard 4.3 Program Director

With the adoption of the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Standards in undergraduate programs, the undergraduate program director for a CSI or Digital Evidence program may not meet current FEPAC standards as the standard requires the program director to have a minimum of at three years in an operational forensic science laboratory. Program directors for these undergraduate programs do not have forensic science laboratory experience. To allow for this discrepancy, the following update to #1 of the standard was presented:

1. a minimum of a Master's or professional degree appropriate for a forensic science program, and at least three years relevant experience as a forensic science practitioner in an operational forensic science laboratory setting, **except for Crime Scene Investigations and Digital Evidence programs only, where the program director shall have at least an appropriate master's degree plus 5 years relevant experience**; OR earned doctorate in an appropriate discipline, and three years experience as an academic forensic scientist that includes appropriate educational, research, and service contributions to forensic science; and
Correction to the statement was made to clarify the statement.

MOTION: To approve the proposed change to the Standard and prepare for distribution for public comment. MSUA

Election of Second Term Commissioners:

FEPAC Standard 2.5 Terms of Office states the term of office for all Commissioner is three (3) years. After serving one (1) complete term, a Commissioner may be appointed to a second term. All full terms begin at the FEPAC Annual Meeting in February.

Commissioner(s) eligible for a second three (3) year term:

Practitioner: Patrick Eller

MOTION: To elect Patrick Eller for a second term. MSA – Patrick Eller abstained.

FEPAC Future Development Discussion:

- FEPAC Commission make-up: With the addition of CSI Standards and future expansion of programs, should FEPAC begin to consider adding or altering the Commission makeup. Wait to see how well CSI takes off and then decide on FEPAC Commissioner additions. If warranted, expand the Commission by two – one CSI academic and one CSI practitioner. Advertise by using the AAFS newsletter, social media (both AAFS & FEPAC), email blast to universities and other associations.
- FEPAC basic science curriculum requirements. Is it time to consider less specificity in allowing the university core curriculum in science address the hours?
As a result of COVID, universities/programs were tasked with looking at finances. There may be a push to limit the number of credits required of a student potentially 70% of total credits. FEPAC's mission is to make certain students have a solid grounding in science as well as forensic science. The FEPAC structure supports programs maintaining a core curriculum important leading to employability for the student. To assist in receiving input on this topic, Tom Brettell and Karl Larsen to put together a survey.

- FEPAC accreditation of terminal degrees. With the increase in forensic science PhDs and doctoral programs, is it time to consider developing standards for a terminal degree program? At this time, no requests for PhD accreditation has been received by FEPAC. Accreditation terminal degrees would require a development of standards. Recommend a survey to (1) determine the need/desire for PhD in the workforce, (2) interest among academia and students for PhD accreditation, and (3) general curriculum requirements. Commissioner Godfrey offered to gather information on universities/programs currently offering forensic PhD programs. A survey may follow based on these findings.
- FEPAC diversity standard. FEPAC observes the AAFS Policy 1.1.4 Diversity and Inclusion Statement. However, the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) looks to accreditors to expect universities/programs to a diversity plan/policy in place.