

Academics Committee

Minutes Feb. 5

Tom, Molly, Joell, Emily, Lisa, Kassie, Maggie, Donna, Allie Blomquist, Bronwen, Courtney, Cheri, John, Noelle, Hannah, Noah

1. PSEO Equivalencies - update by Lisa, although a few other committee members are on the Academics Committee, so they might be better options to give the update?. I will send out the procedure they came up with. They are currently trying to schedule a 2nd meeting.

Met and set a procedure last week (see minutes). It was informative and are attempting to schedule a second meeting. The next step is that if there are any courses to look at, they should be submitted. No one has gone through the procedure yet.

2. Credit Recovery Task Force - update by Noelle

Met and need clarification from our lawyers and MDE. Does our BOD have the right the set a procedure for credit recovery? We need a lot of clarification before we move on. Nothing new. Algebra II is the highest level recovery offered by home districts, so identification is key prior to them taking this class. Math dept. Will share information with the office for families who students are behind in math towards graduation.

What will the transcript look like for transfer credits?

Original course is listed as not graded, and their new course is used for our course offered.

PSeo courses are the only outside courses that are used on the transcript. We discussed exploring credit recovery taught at MSA, as an option. The progression list is going to be done earlier than in past years to identify these students. Usually this affects juniors and seniors. If a student transfers in from another school, their past GPA does not transfer.

3. WBWF update - update by Tom

See summary. This is the final plan for the year. It may seem as if there is a large jump; however keep in mind: these are not the same students who will be tested, and 3 or 4 students could be the difference in jumping up percentiles. Working to get EL reading support. We are hoping to identify and work more one-on-one with struggling students. Moving forward hoping to implement progress monitoring (MAP/STAR testing) who's progressing and who's not.

We picked 8th grade for the largest area of improvement. We don't have enough kids in other areas to choose for a large enough improvement gap.

This goal is for this year, and this year's 8th graders.

4. Educational Program Policy - update by Cheri

Met briefly about policies although had to cancel meeting due to weather. Looking at student testing programs. How far into the strands. Want to talk with math and ELA teachers to see what we want out of our tests. Do we need to make policies for extraneous policies

Meeting Feb 15th.

5. Incomplete grades and timeline to complete work -Joell

Michelle K. couldn't locate the number of days students have to make up an Incomplete in 5 days after a semester ends. Extended illnesses are different.

Students need to have excused absences in other districts for this to be applicable.

It would be nice to have criteria.

What is the difference between excused absences? What about students who go on extended vacations.

If we had something in place before the semester ends. Do we want to decide on a timeline.

We should include unexcused tardies? Three unexcused tardies equal one unexcused days.

Is there an attendance policy that covers this? We need extenuating circumstances?

Joell will put something together for next meeting?

6. High school students enrolled after the start of the school year (class progression and credit) -Joell

Someone who enrolls after the start of the year. We need to enroll them legally. They can discuss what is needed, but they can still come in. now we have students who are not on track to graduate.

We need a procedure in place for students who enter who haven't had these courses. This should be dependent on different students. What do we do with these kids?

What do we tell the families for late start students. There go off of credits.

Even if you're in the same chemistry, it may not match with what they've had. Depends on what point in the semester.

Take a look at middle school and highschool repeats of classes that are failed.

7. Course grades for partial semesters (transferring students) - John

I propose that a Pass/Fail grade be given for any student transferring into MSA when more than one month of the current semester has been completed. When a student transfers out we offer exit grades but could offer a Pass/Fail grade if less than two weeks remain in the semester.

What type of grade goes on these transcripts. P/F is an option. Does the time the student begins matter? It's easier to calculate the more time they're here. This should be based on department course requirements.

Does their previous grade matter? Does a P/F work best? This should be a department meeting topic.

If students leave earlier can students get credit as a pass/fail when leaving? We give them an exit grade. This can be a department meeting discussion as well.

Start with department input. Does it make things better or worse? It's a starting point.

8. Grants - Tom

Aren't textbooks and tech are capital expenditure, not part of a grant? Why can't it go in next year's budget rather than come out of grant money?

Is the technology budget looking at replacing on a schedule? Is this a piecemeal?

There should be a cycle of textbook replacement and tech replacement. This shouldn't be part of the grant money.

The cardio equipment will be used with the classes for stations with life-time fitness activities.

Noah gave a range due to money, and hoping to get the most.

Remove one SMART Board from request. Take the one from Bronwen's room and give to one of the requesters; Bronwen will take a Mimeo.

Remove security cameras for Building C.

Remove the request for Cate's Textbooks; she believes they are from last year.

Everything else passes.

9. Other/New Business

Next Meeting: March 5

