

MSA Academics Committee

Minutes

Weds., April 5, 2017, 8 a.m., Room 12A

Present: Lisa A., Maggie B., John G., Emily G., Barbara G., Jen H-N, Cheri H., Hannah K., Kassie L., Romelle P., Joelle P., Bronwen W. **Absent:** Noelle H., Cortney H., Jerry S., Tim T., Rita W.

1. **Impact Grant Request approvals** (Mona Hayashi, Finance Comm.)

Michelle K, Jena Albers, Lisa A, Tom J, Judy S, Teresa W = all requested grant money. It is under \$10,000, so it is suggested that we approve all of them, unless someone objects to any of the requests; will go to Finance Committee on April 17 for final approval. What should we do with the leftover money?: Maybe use for science textbooks and the training involved with the textbooks as well.

2. **Old Business**

a. **PSEO Task Force update** (Lisa)

Which PSEO classes meet criteria for receiving credit? Tim said as long as students are reading, writing, and analyzing literature, it should count for English. Will be meeting with Markell later this month to discuss Spanish.

Should PSEO credit be weighted differently? Not doing that would be easiest. AP classes are weighted. Weight could be based on the number of credits earned for the course, but each college does this differently. Students who take AP at MSA, often get credit for a first college class.

Should we weight PSEO classes just like AP? This is difficult because we are unsure of the rigor for the college classes. We are not sure what to do at this point or where to go next. AP classes are weighted by choice. A student can choose this on a transcript for his/her AP courses.

Could the PSEO course be worth more credit? Colleges look at GPAs differently. They do give more value to having AP on a transcript. Also, PSEO students receive a transcript from that school as well as MSA, and colleges will look at that differently as well.

Many students say some PSEO classes are easier than the classes at MSA. Students receive the same amount of credit for a PSEO class at MSA regardless of the credit amount at the school (ie: Art for 1 credit at PSEO = 1 MSA credit, Physics for 5 credits at PSEO = 1 MSA credit). This seems unfair. However, colleges do look at transcripts.

Will revisit discussion next month. . .

b. **WBWF Goal** (Romelle)

The goal for this year was focusing on nonfiction reading. An evaluation of this PD needs to be sent to the staff for reflection and to see what was valuable. What should the PD focus on next year? We need to be certain all students receive focus (ELL, SpEd, FRL). It has to be brought up, and data needs to be looked at.

What should we do? Well, what are we doing as a staff to make sure students of color/with disabilities/ELL are successful? What needs addressing?

In terms of math, our data indicates a focus on this is not needed at this point. Can the focus be on cultural differences or diversity? The state will look at our math numbers. Our population is clearly changing, and the number of students is changing. We may want to focus on making sure all students are successful as our PD for next year. We may not need to meet every month on this topic.

c. **2017-2018 Course/Elective updates** (Joelle)

Most of the 7th grade schedules are finished. Judy's classes are pretty full, which helps engineering and art courses. 11th and 12th grade schedules need to be looked at again. The social studies department needs to meet about what will be offered next year due to students not signing up for APUSH. Joell will attempt to schedule students in Band and PE so they are back-to-back on the schedule.

3. **New Business**

- a. **Strategic Plan** (Cheri) This was presented at the stakeholder meeting last night and approved by the BOD last month. Look it over and consider how we can make it part of the Academic Committee in the future.

4. **Next Meeting**

- a. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 am in Room 12A. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 3, 2017. Meetings are open to the public.