

Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meaning Minutes

Taken by: Lisa Cheby, Librarian

Date: 8/26/14

Location: Ms. Long's Room

Time: 8:30- 9 am

Members Present::

Elva Guevara-Lewis

Cynthia Edwards-Alarcon

Wesley McBride

Viridiana Mendez

Romuald David

Lisa Cheby

Julianne Long

Jere Mendelsohn

Tina Staley

Daniel Sermenio

Kurt Berg

Holly Avdul

Members Absent:

Victor Ortiz

Stephanie Bertucci

Others:

N/A

My apologies as these minutes are really just notes I was taking to follow the conversation, so not formatted as proper minutes and might have missed some comments. Please fill important points missed.

We started the meeting by figuring out where to start and reviewing our purpose based on Jere's overview from his work on the ESBMM proposal and Lisa's notes on the handout from our first meeting at the end of last school year.

I. Wes raised the first concern about the logic of course offerings and how it seemed that classes were being created without thought of progressions, particularly electives for the magnet programs. For example, offering Painting II when Painting 1 has not been offered in 3 (?) years. Later, Jere added to this topic emphasizing the need for consideration of "scope and sequence."

There was a brief mention of making recommendations to (from?) departments about CCSS and Jere mentioned the new website allows teachers to select and insert CCSS into lesson assignments online. (One of our missions is to compile curricula and syllabi as well as

strategies; another is to track implementation of CCSS).

II. The second issue of concern raised was the 4 period requirements for 9th and 10th graders. Cynthia clarified for 10th graders it is required only if they failed a class or scored FBB on tests. Various members expressed concern that this policy is counterproductive, being viewed as a punishment and overburdening already struggling students with 4 academic classes. At one time, any 4th period required class was a small study-group style remedial class, not an extra class with added work. There was a consensus that the true Copernican schedule was being forced into a 4x4 schedule. Jere said this was pushed on us last year by Dr. Kim, who is no longer in position over our ESC. Wes noted that when we switched to copernican scheduling attendance and performance went up and this shift away from it has caused a dip in attendance and possibly testing. Julianne and Holly, both who taught or are teaching 4th period English classes noted how most students do not show up and see a 4th period as punishment. Diana concurred and said tutorials were needed. Someone asked if there was an official course for this and Cynthia (?) said there was for Math and English (companion study-group classes for remedial support).

Wes was concerned about making these changes w/o getting rid of "good things" but that was not elaborated.

Wes volunteered to be Chair as he is on the Governance Council (as is Jere). No one objected or wanted the position.

The committee agreed to work on a draft of a proposal for Term C to return to the true Copernican schedule and not require 4th period classes for 9th or 10th graders. If such classes are needed for students who are falling behind, then they should be remedial classes to offer additional support in core subjects, not an additional class that adds work to a struggling student's schedule.

Since I took notes, I volunteered to be secretary.

Our goal is to work on proposals regarding scope and sequence and the Copernican schedule. While we would like to meet to have a proposal for Tuesday's Governance Council meeting, Wes and Jere may just give them an overview of what we are working on. IN the meantime, we will collaboratively work on a proposal with data regarding the Copernican schedule for Term C.