

BHS Academic Choice



ACAC Meeting Minutes – 11/16/07

In Attendance

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Student Leadership:

(Paris, Zahra, & Mia): Advised that they were thinking of holding freshman mentoring on minimum day. Matt did not think that was a good idea because class sessions were too short on that day, difficult for teachers and fewer students would attend. Matt would prefer a regular day. Perhaps this can be coordinated with Sherene.

Students want to have an AC picnic @ Cordonices Park in December on a Weekend. Matt suggested they look in to 12/8 or 12/15. They will talk to the Parks' Dept. about availability.

Students also interested in Karaoke Night. Scott suggested that this event would also be fun for parents and may be a good fundraiser.

Doug suggested students consider doing a carnival with a dunk tank for teachers – always fun for students. Maybe AC sponsored event for the whole school, not just AC. Something that the students could work with the parent leadership in putting together and worked out with student government.

Review of Parent General Meeting 11/14/07:

Hedy: Reported that the meeting went well, there seemed to a high level of interest from parents that attended. Parents seemed to want a lot of general information about AC, estimated that 75% or more were parents of freshmen

students and wanted to know more about the program. Some parents wanted to know more about who to contact when they had problems or concerns; information about this will be posted on the AC website.

Jane mentioned that one of the parents had a good question about curriculum coordination; she had twins in two different 9th grade English classes that were reading different books. David & Alex both noted that coordination of curriculum extended to goals and teaching of same skills among the classes in the grades, but that actual materials used was determined by individual teachers.

Hedy & Matt: Noted the importance of keeping the web site updated. Jane said that Jessie will keep the site updated and send e-Tree bulletins about changes.

Matt said he heard several parents talking to Karen in the office the day after the general meeting saying how impressed they were with Alex Angell as a motivating teacher. They are looking forward to their kids taking his Globalization course.

Course Catalogue Changes:

Pasquale said this mention of the Globalization course is a good segue into the topic of discussion of the Globalization course, senior electives, and the course catalogue. We need to determine if the new globalization course will be taught in addition to or as a replacement for Power & Politics. Will it be an elective or a requirement? Perhaps it could be paired with P&P with each course being taught for a semester.

Discussion ensued between Alex, Pasquale, and Matt about getting these issues clear for the course catalogue which is due to be submitted on December 1st. Electives are good to have, but they create scheduling and balance problems, often time with too few people signing up to take a course to make classroom/teacher time viable. All considered it important to show course "pairings" in the catalogue, if not the actual teacher to be giving the class.

David noted the importance of getting approval of Globalization for recognition by UC for credit. Pasquale noted that will have to be shown as pending in the catalogue as that cannot be determined by printing.

Pasquale noted that other courses being submitted by teachers for electives need to go through some vetting process. This could be done at short review during AC Teacher staff meetings.

History electives currently proposed: Comparative Religion, Psych(?), Politics of Power, & Globalization.

English electives: Asian Lit & Women's Lit (paired), Bible Lit & Western Lit (paired) -(All semester courses) and Short Stories (1 yr).

Online Assessments and Quarter Grades:

Sherene was a little disappointed in the results of the online assessments. The results indicate that the 9

th grade students are performing below average in comprehension of non-fiction and vocabulary. On the positive side, they tested above average in fiction and long passage comprehension.

She was disappointed in the lack of response from teachers who were contacted about a very large number of failing students.

We will be sending 9th grade history teachers to a Kinsella workshop in January to improve teaching methods and help address the student's current below average performance in testing on non-fiction and vocabulary.

Sherene also believes that it is important for the math and science departments to become split between the AC and IB programs to coordinate and improve the teaching of writing and communications skills dealing with these subjects. This split may occur anyway as a result of the IB course demands in these disciplines.

Sherene advised that she would be willing to put together a summary of the results of the analysis and email them out to the group.

Karen suggested that we should put out a general assessment of the summaries for parents.

Time ran out before remaining items on the agenda could be addressed.

These included:

Senior Thesis Report

Quarter Grades & Student Support

Financials

Social Living

Fundraising

Next Meeting Scheduled for 12/7/07