

Curriculum Committee Meeting

BFA Principal's Conference Room

November 12, 2015

8:30 a.m.

In Attendance: Sally Lindberg, Jeff Morrill, Preston Randall, Jesse Byers, Chris Mosca, Shannon Warden

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Sally Lindberg called the meeting to order at 8:32am.

2. Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2015

Approved. No changes.

3. New Course Proposals (if there are any to present)

Shannon shared packet of information including one new course proposal: Alternative English. This course is designed to be a credit recovery option designed around individualized support, targeted towards specific PBGRs. Open questions include: How many students will need to enroll in this course? How will it be scheduled? Request to bring proposal forward to full BFA board - committee supports bringing this to full board.

4. Student Achievement Data

Preston shared that freshmen are showing improvement compared to last year. Total failure rate is 18% (at some point during the year last year, failed a class.) We showed improvement with Freshman (from 20% to 17.83%, and the others remained relatively flat, and overall, our failure rate went from 17.20% to 18.25%, which is what prompted us to look at what subgroups needed additional support. When looking at sub-groups, low-income students have higher failure rates. The school has put together a data team to look more closely at this data, make meaning, and respond. A question was asked about sending schools. Preston responded that failure rates were correlated with poverty rate at each school. This will become an ongoing agenda item for the curriculum committee.

6. Update on PBGRs

Shannon shared a few handouts on proficiency-based learning. Departments are doing a gap analysis of the state sample proficiencies and mapping proficiencies into curriculum maps at the course level. Departments are having conversations and prioritizing requirements. This may require revising or developing a new graduation requirement policy. Chris described the work of the leadership team in supporting this transition towards PBGRs. Shannon discussed implications on grading in a proficiency-based system, and how work habits are separated out of the grade and tracked through the transferrable skills. Preston shared an update on a consortium of colleges and universities that are working towards developing a portfolio-based

application process for college admissions to support proficiency-based learning in the transition to higher education. Shannon shared that next year's incoming freshman will need to graduate based on proficiencies demonstrated (class of 2020). Teachers will be working on their curriculum maps and gap analysis on November 23rd and 24th.

7. Cursive Writing

Jesse presented how elementary schools are addressing handwriting and cursive, with a focus on practicing handwriting through the writer's workshop process. Shannon described writing in the high school, and plans for continued work with the Vermont Reads Institute (VRI).

8. Next Meeting Date

- January 21, 8:30-9:30
- Inservice overview - November 23-24
- Proficiency-Based Learning
- Data team update

9. Adjourn

Adjourned at 9:28am.