

Walnut Hills ILT Minutes: November

Date: 11/17/2021

Location: WHHS 2602

Present (voting members): John Chambers (co-chair), Joseph Gerth (co-chair), Laura Brogden, Matthew Chaney, Elizabeth Duncan-Scruggs, Doreena Fox, Tanya Ficklin, Margo Fisher-Bellman, Drew McGarvie, Sara McGuire Jay, Heather Lloyd, Acacia Moraes Diniz, Ashley Morgan, Nicole Pennekamp, Denise Pfeiffer, Kathy Restle, Pete Riddle, Ferd Schneider, Michael Sherman, Jessica Smitson, Brian Sweeney, Liz Thelen, Christine Wickemeier, Shauniece Steele

Present (non-voting members): Sunny Dighe

Present (non-members): William Harris, Tara Ligon, Barrett Smith, Brad Smith, Sam Stephenson, Julie Vernon

October Minutes

Discussion: none

Motion: Accept as written (Pfeiffer; second McGarvie)

Vote: passed unanimously by voice vote

Special Order of Business

none

Old Business (Originator)

1. Mathematical Modeling and Reasoning (Schneider)

Discussion:

- *What effect might this have on pre-calculus enrollment? Not a significant problem*

Motion: as written (Schneider; Pfeiffer second)

Vote: 18-0-1

Result: Mathematical Modeling and Reasoning (MMR) will be added to the course guide and offered.

New Business (Originator)

2. PE Course Proposal (Llyod)

Discussion:

- *Add new course without new requirement (this course would be the second in the required sequence).*
- *Is there a more robust proposal? Course description, syllabus, etc?*
- *Eventually, the goal is to add more elective PE options as well (e.g. yoga, games & sports)*

Walnut Hills ILT Minutes: November

- *Would this be sequential? Yes, but not necessarily in the same year. But first PE course would be a prerequisite*
- *Counselling has concerns about making this course a requirement (scheduling issues?). Do not see problem with students taking same course twice.*
- *Can this function as an elective? So students can opt into it?*

[motion to continue discussion for another ten minutes (Gerth) passed by unanimous voice vote]

- *Just because it's the way we've done it, doesn't mean it's the best practice to have students take the same course twice.*
- *Historically, it was a semester of PE and a semester of swimming (for 1 credit). This was changed years ago (due to limitations with finding/paying lifeguards) to be one course that was repeated twice.*
- *Is a phase-in option possible?*

Motion: to approve as written, provided we run the same course concurrently (Schneider; unfriendly amendment, no second)

Motion: accept as written (Chambers; Schneider second)

Vote: 15-4-0

Result: PE 2 (Physical Fitness for Health and Performance)

3. Astronomy Proposal (Pfeiffer)

Discussion:

- *District is going through Science curricular revision; strong, district-wide student interest in astronomy. Currently taught at Spencer and Shroder with college-level textbooks, course at Walnut will be similar with added connection with the Cincinnati Observatory. All materials will be purchased through the district.*
- *Students will need to take biology first, then can take Chemistry with Algebra II.*
- *Another elective alongside Botany/Environmental Science.*
- *Would it require additional FTE? No, FTE would come from reduction in Botany/Environmental numbers*
- *Would this require evening field trips? Details not fully worked out with Observatory yet.*
- *Some teams would like to see more detail in course proposal.*
- *Some departments did not have time to discuss this proposal.*

Motion: take proposal back to departments (Thelen; Chambers second)

Vote: approved by voice vote; one abstention

Result: Bring back to departments, plan to vote at December meeting.

4. Study Guides for Exams (Wickemeier)

Discussion:

- *Not all teachers provide a study guide for exam. Student Success Center (SSC) would like this to be required before exams so students can be as prepared as possible. Especially important this year after covid, where students may need additional guidance & support.*

Walnut Hills ILT Minutes: November

- *Rather than a requirement, maybe send out an email from SSC with data and strongly suggesting it*
- *May not be actually enforceable if it were "required"*
- *Some classes may not have an exam (semester assessments are required, not necessarily an exam)*
- *Inconsistency between teachers of same course; between advanced & CP?*

Result: Discuss with Departments, SCC will send out email with data & encouraging study guides.

Motion to Adjourn: Pfeiffer (Sherman, second)

Vote: unanimously approved by voice vote