



Academic Affairs Committee Report October 13, 2016

The inaugural Academic Affairs Committee met on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 1 pm. Members of the committee consist of Dr. Miriam Cohen (Committee Chair), Mr. Matt Koblick, and Mr. Joel Manwarren (Director of Academic Affairs), all of whom, except Dr. Cohen due to Jury Duty, were present at this meeting. Mr. J.J. Lewis, President & CEO, serves as an ex-officio member and Mr. Miguel Aguilar, Executive Assistant to the CEO, serves as secretary, both of whom were also present at this meeting.

Mr. Lewis provided highlights from the Staff Report (the entire Staff Report can be found online, in our Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Packet):

Class of 2017

AAS celebrated its first graduate of the 2016-2017 school year last month. A junior who completed both the 11th and 12th grade curriculum was able to graduate early. She has chosen to start Navy basic training this fall.

College Road Trip Presentation Series

Our Counseling Services Department is hosting two (2) virtual presentations in October, in both English and Spanish. They hosted their "Navigating the College Application" presentation on October 12th and on October 19th starting at 6 pm, they will host "FAFSA Basics: Money for College."

Curriculum Review

Teams from the Academic Affairs Division participated in a robust curriculum review process. A formal presentation and review is under New Business.

Science Wet Labs

AAS is hosting synchronous and asynchronous biology and chemistry labs the first Saturday of every month this school year. They are held at our San Diego and Thousand Oaks Learning Centers, and streamed for those scholars who are unable to attend in person. Our first session last Saturday, October 1st, with 24 scholars attending in person and 23 virtually, out of 82 enrolled in our comprehensive biology and chemistry courses.

Mr. Lewis introduced Ms. Crystal Villegas, the Scholar Intervention Coordinator, to walk the committee through the Summer Remediation Program presentation. Ms. Villegas shared the intent of the program, along with overall program results and targeted results of those scholars who returned to AAS this school year. She also shared some of the focus areas for this year, including increased support and data-driven instruction.

Mr. Lewis led the committee in a review and discussion on the Academic Affairs Committee charge, which was approved by the Board of Directors at their May 10, 2016 special meeting. Key responsibilities consist of assisting in setting academic strategies; ensuring that all board members understand the key charter promises made to the community and authorizers; ensuring that resources are allocated appropriately to support and sustain academic programs; and ensuring that the school's academic programs are appropriate for its scholars, and that scholars are well served by the school.

Mr. Lewis walked the committee through the 9th Grade Math Placement Track A Checkpoint Update, which was prepared by Debra Stephan, Counseling Services Manager. The Counseling Services Department performed the 30-day checkpoint for our 9th grade scholars per our 9th Grade Math Placement Policy. The checkpoint resulted in one (1) scholar course level change from Honors Algebra to Comprehensive Algebra.

Mr. Lewis walked the committee through a review of curriculum provider options for the 2017-18 school year and beyond. AAS currently uses K12 and FuelEd (a division of K12) as our curriculum providers for Elementary (K12) and Middle and High (FuelEd) schools. Our contract with these providers is up for renewal at the conclusion of the 2016-17 school year. We assembled two (2) committees to review our options for curriculum providers. Based on feedback from our Leadership Team, the overwhelming recommendation is to select K12 for our elementary program, and FlipSwitch for our middle and high school program. Based on feedback from our Curriculum Review Committee, the unanimous recommendation is to select FlipSwitch for our middle and high school program.

The Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve K12 as the curriculum provider for Elementary School, and FlipSwitch as the curriculum provider for Middle and High School.

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 pm. The next Academic Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8th starting at 1 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Matt Koblick
Board Member &
Acting Academic Affairs
Committee Chair