

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES

ENGLISH

Thursday, March 24, 2016

BA 204

In Attendance: Brockway, Arthur J; Chambers, Lauren R; Clouse, Laura E; Cuthbertson, Charles T; Klauza, Matt D; Larson, Holly A; Pernal, Mary C; Schmersahl, Christopher J; Skolnick, Jenifer A; Aguila, Susan D; Baird, Diane S; Beck, Bruce M; Benham, Timothy L; Brahlek, Steve J; Dilgen, Regina M; Duncan, David D; Fine, Africa R; Galvin, Mary E; Johnson, Bradley R; Klass, Traci M; Larocca, Nicholas T; Marzelli, Michael A; McDonald, Nancy D; McDonald, Patricia R; Nixon, David H; Peck, Edwin T; Policy, Carole; Proctor, Roberta L; M; Snowberger, Deborah I; Stonecipher, Melissa; Tierney, Patrick C; Stewart, Zak; Reardon, Karen; Irizarry, Adella; Shepardson, Richard; Martin, Valrie; Aquila, Sue; McLaughlin, Idell; Proctor, Roberta; Berg, Jacqueline

Item #1: Bedford: MLA style has come out with 8th edition. Bedford handbook will soon be updated to incorporate those changes

Item #2: PBSC Alma Mater contest: Michael MacMullen, Music Department Chair, requested that we ask students to write a poem celebrating PBSC alumni. English faculty can perhaps create a committee to advise a rubric and to review potential poems

Item #3: Class Size Recommendation Report by Chris Schmersahl and the committee on class reduction. Twenty-nine members approved and one abstained the 16-paged research on the effects of smaller class size.

Item #4: Laura Clouse remains cluster chair and Zak Stewart is the new scribe

Item #5: General Assessment Committee: Patrick Tierney went over General Education Assessment results. We need to think of the following:

- What does this data tell us?
- Do we need to norm our assignments? Can we get paid for this to dedicate a day to do this?
- Do we have the same rigor?
- Are the benchmarks realistic?

- Do we need to choose another outcome?
- 9 out our 11 course assessments are at 100%: is this realistic? Do we all agree that a 5 looks the same?

We need to consider adjustments by April 29th

Our data does not prove that there is a need to reduce class size. There is a disconnect here.

Part of the problem with the Gen Ed assessment is the inconsistency with adjuncts. They need to be part of the norming session. PBSC did this in the past. The norming session was overall successful.

Patrick emphasized that we need to make significant changes; what we have now is not working. Gen Ed assessment is a tool that not only assesses students, but ourselves to see if we need to make any curricular changes.

Dr. Irving Berkowitz spoke on the accuracy and quality of assessment tool: if 70% of students coming to PBSC are not college ready, then how can 87% meet our benchmark? Moreover, 87% of students now meeting a 3 or higher does not justify a reduction in class size. So how do we need to change the instrument to better measure our students' skills?

Right now we are only focusing on ENC 1101:

- We need to form a committee to address Gen Ed assessment: 22 approved; 1 opposed; 0 abstained.
- The committee will comprise of the following: (Belle Glade) Laura, Chris, and Charles; (PG) Nancy, (Lake Worth) Natalya and Steve; (Boca) Africa and Traci

Item #5: Textbook Affordability

- Book fair – we are shopping for less expensive books
- We're already conscious of selecting inexpensive books
- We need clarification about going textless
- We plan on using electronic texts