

# PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

## CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES

ENGLISH

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

11:00am

BA 204

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**In Attendance:** Brockway, Arthur J; Chambers, Lauren R; Clouse, Laura E; Cuthbertson, Charles T; Klauza, Matt D; Larson, Holly A; Pernal, Mary C; Pumphrey, Christopher; Schmersahl, Christopher J; Skolnick, Jenifer A; Aguila, Susan D; Baird, Diane S; Beck, Bruce M; Benham, Timothy L; Brahle, Steve J; Dilgen, Regina M; Duncan, David D; Fiedler, Robin; 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; Osterman, Patricia P; Proctor, Roberta L; Ribar, John; McDermott, Rachel M; Snowberger, Deborah I; Stonecipher, Melissa; Tierney, Patrick C; Wilber, Elizabeth J; Peck, Edwin; Shepardson, Richard; Irizarry, Adella; Stewart, Zach; Romenesko, Nataliya; McDermott, Rachel; McLaughlin, Idell; Abbondanza, David; Martin, Valrie; Douglas, Denise.

1. David Wells, new director for QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) since May 2015, encouraged English cluster to use the Critical Thinking Quick Guide we received at convocation and develop assignments directly using critical thinking. He spoke about the four outcomes: analyze/interpret, reach sound conclusion, evaluate and explain, and exhibit dispositions. He also spoke of QEP's summer institute and professional learning groups on each campus that anyone can join. He also mentioned how he will try to visit each campus once a month.
2. Previous minutes approved.
3. New faculty members were introduced:  
Valerie Martin, Nataliya Romenesko, Richard Shepardson, Elizabeth Wilber (switching from development to English), Denise Douglas, Adella Irizarry, and Zach Stewart

4. Laura Clouse and Art Brockway introduced the pilot ENC1101 Diagnostic and Rubric for fall 2015.

- On the ENC1101 Diagnostic website (<http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/academicaffairs/ENC1101-Diagnostics.aspx>) , there are three choices for instructors to choose from: an article on creating gun-free zones, an article on a Ted Talk about trying something new for thirty days, and an article on getting DNA from dog poop.
- Rubric for ENC 1101 Diagnostic is the same as General Education Rubric (1-5)

There were some concerns among faculty. A couple of faculty members were concerned that students could easily access the diagnostic essay topics. One faculty member expressed concern that students may not know how to summarize. These concerns were addressed: the diagnostic essay topics and website can be locked and only accessed by faculty and students' inability to know how to summarize is part of the evaluation.

Faculty can suggest students to take ENC 0017 (reading and writing) and ENC 0052 (developmental writing) but cannot mandate it. Some faculty recommended emailing students and copying the email to an administrator/advisor who can assist students in taking an English preparatory course.

One faculty member suggested that a database to track students' scores be designed for English instructors to access.

It was decided that the cluster should keep students' diagnostic and use it as a measurement of students' writing growth at the end of the term.

It was also agreed upon by cluster to review diagnostic essay topics and for faculty to give feedback on the ENC 1101 Diagnostic website.

Chairs on each campus were encouraged to have adjuncts use the diagnostic.

5. Art Brockway reviewed cluster protocol for textbook selection: cluster chooses a textbook and sticks with the same book for three years. Art expressed his concern about one campus changing textbooks before the three year commitment was up and without getting approval from cluster. One faculty member suggested that adjuncts be given a voice in selecting textbooks. It was also confirmed that full-time instructors do not have to use a textbook. It was unsure, however, if all full-time faculty members are required to use a handbook (currently Bedford) for ENC 1101. Cluster members decided to table this conversation for the future.
6. Steve Brahlek spoke about FCEA's call for papers in St. Petersburg, FL, in Oct. 2015, and the national CEA in Denver, CO, in March 2016.