



MATHEMATICS CLUSTER MINUTES
Wednesday, August 19th, 2015
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Lake Worth Campus
BA 207

ITEM 1. Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (Pain).

Discussion:

- Cluster should choose problems for the embedded assessment that show that students learned the material being tested.
- Professors should use results to discuss best practices and practices that are not working.
- Data will be used to examine the college's general education program overall and not focus on specific courses, classes, or professors.
- The cluster will use the same Gen. Ed. Problems we used last fall again this fall.
- Data from both semesters will be compared in the spring.
- Professors should give problems on the same type of assignment for each course. (ie. Regular test, final exam, etc.).
- Benchmarks for all courses should be the same. (Burkett) The benchmarks for all courses are currently 50%.
- There were some inconsistencies with regard to the Statistics Gen. Ed. Problems.
- Most of cluster counts points for Gen. Ed. Questions on assignments.
- The cluster voted to incorporate Gen. Ed. Problems on regular tests (chapter or section tests) in which those concepts are being tested and use the scores on those problems to be sent to the IRE. Scores from these problems should not come from a cumulative test.

Action:

- The Statistics Committee will look at the Gen. Ed. Problems and create a Rubric to make sure problems are graded consistently. This should be completed by 9/30/15.
- Cox will send cluster the list of Gen. Ed. Problems.

ITEM #1A. QEP (David Wells, new manager of QEP)

Discussion:

- Cluster was asked to look at Critical Thinking Book that was handed out at Convocation.
- We were also asked to try to use this in our classes.
- Lukacs & Piccolino took a course over the summer that stressed the use of critical thinking in the classroom.
- Lukacs created a rubric for her College Algebra course.
- Piccolino worked on student projects that would help build conceptual learning and understanding in Intermediate Algebra. He will use these in the fall and share with the cluster in the spring.

- The stipend for summer 2015 was \$1000. There will be a stipend for those interested in future summers. There should be approximately 40 spots available each summer.

Action:

- Lukacs will put her College Algebra rubric on the Cluster Folder.

ITEM #2. Preventing students from getting help from LABs on work that students have to do themselves (David Simms, LW LAB).

Discussion:

- SLC on LW campus was concerned about helping students that brought in problems on notebook paper since the problems could be from a test or quiz in which the student was not supposed to get help on.
- The LW SLC created a form to be filled out by professors and sent to the SLC that gave tutors permission to work on specific problems with students. If the SLC had not received this form then tutors would help students with similar problems from the book.
- No cluster members give take-home tests or out-of-class assignments that students cannot get help with.
- The cluster decided that the SLC could help with all math problems brought to them.
- Faculty must contact the SLC if they do not want students to receive help on a given assignment.
- Tutors will help students with hw problems on MyMathLab and WebAssign but will not help students with quizzes or tests that are given on MML or WA.

Action:

- Simms will email form to Cox
- Cox will email form to cluster

ITEM #3. MAT1033 is four credit course now: current situation (Berthiaume)

Discussion:

- Diagnostic Tests
 - The IA committee created 3 new diagnostic tests to be used this fall, 50 problems, 40 problems, and 33 problems. Professors can assign the one they choose.
 - Students cannot start hw before they attempt the diagnostic test.
 - Results from the diagnostic do not count towards the students' grades.
 - The 50 problem diagnostic is set as the default for all courses so faculty will need to assign one of the others if they choose.
 - The current default is set at 70% on the diagnostic so students will not be able to start the hw unless they achieve this score.
 - The thought behind the default score is that students will need to contact the professor and have a discussion about being unprepared for the course. The professor will then need to manually give them permission to start the hw.
 - The 70% default can be turned off by each professor if desired.
 - All students must be allowed to continue in the course regardless of how they did on the diagnostic.
 - Any problems that were done incorrectly on a student's diagnostic will appear on hw assignments throughout the course.
- There are review problems from earlier chapters scattered throughout MML assignments. Each review problem has "Review Problem" written at the beginning.
- A new final exam is currently being worked on by the Intermediate Algebra committee and will be submitted to the cluster by 9/30/15.

- Abbondanza created a coordinator course for adjuncts on the Boca campus.
- Burkett's SI created youtube videos for all of her test reviews.

Action:

- Burkett will place test reviews and link to youtube videos on the Cluster Folder.
- Berthiaume will send new final exam to cluster by 9/30/15.

ITEM #3A. Introduction of New Math Faculty (Cox).

Discussion:

- Congratulations to Nancy Pennea on receiving a Stewart Award for excellence in teaching.
- Introduction of Justin Rodrigues and Cynthia Alexandre on the LW campus and Laura McCallister and Carrie Stevens on the BR campus.

Action: Congrats and Welcome.

ITEM #4. MAT1100 Quantitative Reasoning – a Pre-req for Students on the MGF1106, MPGF1107, STA2023 Track (Burkett).

Discussion:

- A handout for the proposal of the new course was given to the cluster.
- The book, Mathematical Ideas, by Miller has been chosen as the book to be used for the course. Piccolino has taught using this book.
- This will be a 3 credit course.
- Faculty that teach Intermediate Algebra will be credentialed for MAT1100.
- We would like to start teaching this course spring 2016.
- This course will be a prerequisite for MGF1106 and 1107. It will not be the prerequisite for STA2023.
- The prerequisite for Statistics will be one of either MGF1106 or 1107.
- All of the cluster except 2 voted to adopt this course.
- A MyMathLab custom course will be created for those professors that wish to use it.

Action:

- Cluster members that would like to help create the hw for this course should email Burkett to let her know of their interest.
- Pre-requisite for MAC1105 is MAT1033C
- Pre-requisite for MGF1106/7 are MAT1033C **OR** MAT1100
- Pre-requisite for STA2023 are MAT1033C **OR** MGF1106/7.

ITEM #5. Reporting cheating (Abbondanza)

Discussion:

- It is now in the PBSC student handbook that students will not be allowed to withdraw from a course due to cheating on an assignment.
- Faculty would need to report any student that is caught cheating to the dean of student services in order for that student to be refused withdrawal from the course.

Action: None

ITEM #6. Math Awareness Week 2016 on each Campus (Chairs of committees)

Discussion:

- Contact persons for each campus were introduced.
 - BG – Siassi & John Pearson (from SLC)
 - BR – Rogers
 - LW – Thomassan
 - WP - Porro

Action: None

ITEM #7. Math Camp for Incoming Intermediate Algebra Students (Berthiaume / Cox)

Discussion:

- The cluster was asked to come up with ideas for a math “boot camp” for some students that plan to take Intermediate Algebra.
- 2 week intensive course.

Action: To be discussed further in the October cluster meeting.

ITEM #8. Request from Chris Bush

Discussion:

- "Your Help Is Needed! I am collecting real world STEM activities that illustrate our Statistics course learning outcomes. These activities can be either in-class or outside of class applications, and is a partial requirement for my sabbatical which will be shared with all math faculty upon completion. Your help is greatly appreciated. Please email recommended activities, comments and suggestions to Chris Bush at bushc@palmbeachstate.edu. Thank you."

Action: None

In Attendance:

Cluster Chair: Dr. Eugenia Cox

Scribe: Scott Berthiaume

Sullivan, Pick, Talebi, Librun, Knysh, Toohey, Sharp, Domnitch, Siniscalchi, Pennea, Gordon, Rodrigues, Rogers, Piccolino, Boulware, Burkett, Rosenthal, Lukacs, Pena-Lopez, Thomassan, Wilson, Basant, Langston, Manesh, Porro, Siassi, Gingras, Sullivan, Alexandre, Heath, McCallister, Abbondanza, Stevens, Ivanova, Pick, David Simms