



**POLITICAL SCIENCE/GEOGRAPHY  
CLUSTER MINUTES**

**March 26, 2015**

**1:30 – 3:30pm**

**Lake Worth Campus**

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- ITEM 1. Please discuss the data collected in the fall of 2014 for your cluster's selected embedded assessment for General Education and provide (1) your recommended competency benchmark for the selected outcome for each Gen Ed course in your cluster; and (2) your plan for administering the fall 2014 assessment again in fall 2015. If ideas emerge that will help make the embedded assessment process more useful for faculty after the fall 2015 cycle, those comments are welcome also.**

**Discussion:** Cluster members discussed the embedded assessment for POS1001 (Introduction to Political Science) and POS1041 (Introduction to American Government). The assessment instrument uses a 5-point rubric to assess outcomes, and cluster members continue to agree that a score of 3 out of 5 demonstrates competency. The Cluster's main goal for the future is continued consistency of administration. In March 2014, the cluster agreed that all faculty would administer the common assessment all at once at the end of each term. It was agreed unanimously that such consistent administration would lead to better and more accurate results and data (for reporting to the Institutional Research and Effectiveness Office) that could be analyzed and used to improve student performance and success. There have been no particular problems reporting the data and no further clarification of scoring options is needed at this time. The plan has been and will continue to be adequately communicated to adjuncts.

**Data source:** General Education Embedded Assessment Results, collected and reported in fall 2014 by faculty/adjuncts, compiled by IRE; assessment instruments as selected by faculty; General Education Embedded Assessment Spring 2015 Updates

**Action:** Cluster members set the following competency benchmarks:  
For POS1001: At least 70 percent of students will score a 3 or higher on the assessment.  
For POS1041: At least 70 percent of students will score a 3 or higher on the assessment.

To ensure consistency of administration, Cluster members agreed to continue the same plan: All at once at the end of the term.

## ITEM 2. Textbooks for Fall 2015

Discussion: Over the past several weeks, cluster members have reviewed a number of textbooks and supplements for POS1001, POS1041 and GEA1000, including e-book and smart book options available from Pearson, Cengage, McGraw Hill, Wiley, Oxford University Press and Norton publishers.

The textbooks currently in use are all available in new editions and concerns have been expressed that there will no longer be enough copies available for enrolled students. Cluster members have long attempted to balance the availability of new editions with the need to keep costs low to students.

The following considerations were made:

### POS1001

Since the Roskin, et al *Political Science: An Introduction*, 12/e has been available in new edition for quite some time, Pearson will make a looseleaf version available in the college bookstore for students who must buy from there.

### POS1041

With consideration that so many adjuncts across four campuses teach POS1041, the smoothest transition to a new textbook comes with the REVEL e-book format of the O'Connor, Sabato and Yanus text that is currently in use. Instructors and students have the option of using REVEL, along with a print-out of the text.

### GEA1000

There is just one section of Geography taught collegewide in each term (fall, spring and summer), and it is anticipated that there will be enough used copies of the current textbook available to accommodate our students.

Data/data source: (where appropriate): Publisher-provided data, demonstration websites and sample textbooks available for POS1001, POS1041 and GEA1000.

Action: For the Fall 2015 term, Cluster members unanimously decided to keep the same textbooks for POS1001 and GEA1000 that are currently in use and to move to Pearson's REVEL for POS1041.

*Political Science – An Introduction* 12/e by Michael G. Roskin, Robert L. Cord, James A. Medeiros and Walter S. Jones. Pearson. ISBN: 9780205075942 OR 9781269804646 for looseleaf version for college bookstore purchase.

*REVEL for American Government, 2014 Elections and Updates Edition* 12/e by Karen O'Connor, Larry Sabato and Alixandra Yanus. Pearson. ISBN: 9780133951251 (access card only) OR 9780134138473 (access card with looseleaf printed book).

*Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts* 15/e by H.J. deBlij, Peter O. Muller and Jan Nijman. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. ISBN: 9781118093603

**OTHER.** None.

**Attendance:**

**Victor Aikhionbare**

**Andrew Luma**

**Shari MacLachlan**

Submitted by:

Shari L. MacLachlan

Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List