



CLUSTER AGENDA

October 13, 2015

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Lake Worth Campus

ITEM 1. Approval of minutes from August 19th, 2015 meeting.

Discussion: None

Data/data source: 8//19/15 Minutes presented.

Action: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Frishman, seconded by Michelle Biferie and passed unanimously.

ITEM 2. District Item: What can faculty do to support the four Performance Funding measures (Job Placement/Continuing Education, Completion to 3-4 years, Retention, and Entry Level Wages)?

Discussion: The only measures the Speech Cluster feels we have any possible influence over are completion and retention. The Speech Cluster has spent two years refining our assessment of our general education course learning outcome on the effective management of communication apprehension. Research by Booth-Butterfield, McCroskey and Payne (1989) found that high levels of communication apprehension can have a significant impact on academic and interpersonal success for college students. High communication apprehension can impact grade point averages and retention rates in college students, who are also less likely to be involved in campus activities or to communicate with peers, instructors and advisors. Therefore, the cluster's continued focus on the effective management of communication apprehension should correlate with a positive impact on completion and retention.

However, the Speech Cluster is only one small piece of the whole. To be successful, we rely on the administrators of this college to enhance and/or offer resources in the assistance of at-risk students, such as:

- Appropriate prep level coursework
- Smaller class sizes
- Intervention programs (for students who fail ENC 1101 and for students who fail ANY course more than once)
- Effective academic advising
- Continued funding of the Student Learning Center
- Administrative support of faculty
- Shared governance

Data/data source: District Item and Booth-Buterfield et al, 1989

Action: Motions for approval made by Victor Gent and seconded by Leonie Escoffery and passed unanimously.

ITEM 3. Review Cluster Minute Guidelines

Discussion: Cluster discussed current policies and procedures. A question arose about the proper procedure when cluster members disagree on a curriculum action such as a newly proposed class. The specific question is “if cluster does not approve a curriculum action does it still move forward to the curriculum committee?”

Data/data source: n/a

Action: Steve Frishman will email Lake Worth Associate Dean Sheila Scott Lubin for clarification and follow up with cluster via email.

ITEM 5. College Item – General Education Assessment

Discussion Cluster Chair Marcie Pachter reminded the Cluster that all Speech Communication faculty are expected to conduct the General Education Assessment again this fall term (2016-1). Cluster members will measure the same learning outcome and use the same online IRE assessment tool as Spring of 2015(2). The site has undergone testing. Members will be notified when the online posting site is available for use

Data Source: n/a

Action: Data to be posted using the IRE online tool by December 17th or January 8th if the assessment is being conducted during the final exam week.

ITEM 5. SPC 1017 Learning Outcomes

Data Source: n/a

Discussion: Members of the Learning Outcome subcommittee (Marcie Pachter, Megan Tomei Jameson, Dave Rossman, Leonie Escofferie) updated the cluster about their research and review of syllabi related to learning outcomes for SPC 1017. They emphasized that our cluster’s current syllabi, LO’s, course design/content and general academic rigor far exceed those of several reviewed within our college peer group. Final recommendations about updating learning outcomes will follow in Spring 2016.

ITEM 6. Speech Contest

Discussion: The Boca Raton campus graciously offered to host this year’s annual Speech contest with Dave Rossman leading our efforts as event Chair. The contest will follow the same policies and procedures as last year’s successful event. A specific topic and date will be discussed at the next cluster meeting.

Action: Discuss contest topic and date at next meeting.

OTHER. Adjournment. Kim Kamuca, motioned, Megan Tomei seconded. All voted in favor at 2:30 pm.

Attendance:

Marcie Pachter (Chair)
Steve Frishman (Scribe),
Michelle Biferie,
David Childers,
Leonie Escoffery
Victor Gent
Kim Kamuca
Megan Tomei

Guests: Sheila Scott-Lubin, Assoc.
Dean,

Absent: Sharon Martin (Sabbatical)
Lori Crane
Dave Rossman

Submitted by:

Steve Frishman, Scribe

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