

EAP CLUSTER AGENDA
Thursday, March 24, 2011
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Lake Worth Campus

ITEM 1. What are discipline-specific ethics that are currently being used in your courses?

Discussion: Plagiarism was discussed related to academic honesty and culture. Plagiarism is controlled and limited by in class and independent assignments.

Data/data source: (where appropriate)

Action: EAP, the SLC Writing lab and PTLC are in discussion concerning a common policy to handle plagiarism in EAP.

ITEM 2. Information literacy is the ability to find, evaluate, organize, and use information and it is one of the general education learning outcomes at the College. How do faculty in this Cluster approach information literacy through assignments, projects or activities. Please provide some examples.

Discussion: The following topics were discussed:

Vocabulary Journals

1. Find-Look up new words
2. Organize-Compile
3. Evaluate-Provide parts of speech, reading in context
4. Use-Sentences, future assignments

Reading and Writing Assignments

1. Find and create main ideas/thesis, purpose, patterns of organization
2. Organize-Supporting details
3. Evaluate-critiquing readings, and summaries and analyses along with comprehension questions.
4. Use-Apply to other assignments, problem solving, synthesizing, and apply to authentic academic texts and every day life.

Library/Online Research Assignments

1. Find- vocabulary, topics, web sites to reinforce class concepts
2. Organize- and compile information
3. Evaluate- materials to relevance to topic, thesis, to source and to current events.

4. Use- sources (online/library) for paraphrasing and for incorporating research into their written arguments.

Data/data source: (where appropriate)

Action: Not applicable

ITEM 3. Nomination of Courses for Inclusion in General Education – discussion and cluster approval (if applicable).

Discussion: No Discussion

Data/data source: (where appropriate)

Action: **Not applicable to EAP cluster.**

ITEM 4. The General Education Assessment Committee has selected two learning outcomes for the College to target for improvement. They are:

Communications: Develop effective communication skills for a variety of audiences.

Critical Thinking: Engage in purposeful reasoning to reach sound conclusions.

Please review the assessment material in the handouts and indicate: 1) how your cluster can support the proposed improvement strategies; 2) other strategies that you plan to carry out directly in your classrooms/clusters that will improve student learning in communications and critical thinking; and 3) new ideas for improvement strategies that can impact the College as a whole.

Discussion: EAP is considering incorporating a minimum word count in our cluster dependent on the course level (ie. EAP-0460, EAP-1584, EAP-1684) to prepare for Gordon Rule writing requirements.

The EAP cluster has been meeting and has recommended that the SLC writing lab personnel, the EAP cluster, the Prep and Credit cluster meet to discuss the rectification of gaps between departments.

The EAP cluster would like to see interdisciplinary cluster meetings (EAP/Prep/Credit) in place of individual cluster meetings.

Data/data source: (where appropriate)

Action: EAP cluster chair will continue to encourage Prep, SLC Writing Lab and Credit to meet to improve the transition into the college classroom.

ITEM 5. Developmental Education Cluster only – Please discuss the impact of the PERT and the new competencies for the College's prep courses, including the EAP courses, which must follow the same competencies. These revised courses will be implemented for the Spring 2012 term.

Discussion: The EAP is concerned with the following questions:

- (1) Why were EAP professionals not included in the decision in the creation of the PERT?
- (2) Is there a going to be PERT sub-test for EAP students?
- (3) What are the cut off scores of PERT for the three levels of EAP reading and writing?

EAP-0420	EAP-460
EAP-1520	EAP-1584
EAP-1620	EAP-1684

- (4) Will there be a writing sample to adequately place students?
- (5) If EAP is considered distinct from prep, can EAP teachers have the authority to place students above or below the course level in which they have been placed by the PERT which has not been designed to differentiate levels within EAP?
- (6) Does McCann offer another testing instrument for EAP/ESL placement after taking the PERT?

Data/data source: (where appropriate)

Action:

ITEM 6. Discussion and recommendation on courses recommended by the General Education Committee for deletion from General Education:

Mathematics Cluster:

MAS2103 (Matrix Theory) – This course teaches highly specialized material appropriate for those who intent is to major in mathematics. The committee recommends that the cluster consider eliminating this course from the general education program.

Natural Sciences Cluster:

AST1004 (Stellar and Galactic Astronomy) – This course has not been offered since spring 2009. The committee recommends that the cluster consider eliminating this course from the general education program.

OCE1001L (Introduction to Oceanography Laboratory) – This is an optional lab and hasn't been offered since spring 2009. The committee recommends that the cluster consider eliminating this course from the general education program.

Communications Cluster:

Intermediate language courses (SPN2200, SPN2201, FRE2200, FRE2201, GER2200 and GER2201) – Professor Victor Schlesinger informed the committee that while these courses are at an intermediate level, they contain a good deal of basic grammar instruction, which is why they have been included as general education courses. However, the German and French intermediate courses have been inactivated and the Spanish courses have been offered very infrequently. The committee recommends that the cluster consider either removing the Spanish intermediate courses from the general education program or re-

activating the German and French courses in order to have consistency with all three foreign language offerings.

Discussion:

Data/data source: (where appropriate)

Action: **Not applicable to EAP cluster.**

OTHER.

Attendance: Shelly Hedstrom, Luli Marx, Mike Sfiropolous, Mary Bailey, Eileen Robinson, Florence Williamson, Richard Shepardson

Submitted by: Richard Shepardson

Richard Shepardson, Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List