

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES

ENGLISH

Oct. 23, 2010

1:30- 3:00

BA 204

ITEM 1. ENC 1101/ENC 1102 and adjunct supplemental reader text

Discussion: Associate Dean Diane Bifano announced to the cluster that there would be a limit of two supplementary readers that adjuncts may choose from for 1101 and 1102. These will be in addition to the already approved Bedford Handbook. This effort is being made in order to create consistency. Department chairs will recommend titles for the spring cluster meeting. The cluster will then vote to approve the supplementary text.

Action: Associate Dean Diane Bifano will spearhead the discussion with Department Chairs before the spring vote. Cluster will vote on Department Chair recommendations in the spring.

ITEM 2. ENC 1101/1102 Content Issues

Discussion: Nick LaRocca presented the cluster with a recap of the minutes from the 1101/1102 subcommittee meeting. There was general discussion about the issues with writing labs and if students are prepared to advance from prep to ENC 1101. It was suggested that there be a forum for prep faculty, lab tutors and faculty to discuss strengths and weaknesses and have an open dialogue about the issues. Also discussed was the content of 1101 classes. The question was raised as to whether documentation / research should be taught as part of 1101. Course Core outlines were distributed and discussed.

Action: Topic to be addressed again in the spring

ITEM 3: 2010 Florida Congressional Update

Discussion: An update on budgets cuts was given by Vicki Sheruer. More updates to come. General discussion about Amendment 8 to increase class size.

Action: More updates to come.

Item 4: Creative Writers Alliance (aka Scribblers)

Discussion: Mary Galvin announced the name change for the writing club formerly known as Scribblers. The club will now be called the Creative Writer's Alliance. She is in the process of putting officers in place and creating a Facebook page.

Action: None

Item 5: Name for the New Fiction Course

Discussion: The curriculum committee approved the course for Spring 2011- Introduction to Fiction Writing I and II

Action: None

Item 6: *Palm Beach Review*

Discussion: Nick LaRocca made a call for poetry and fiction submissions. He announced that the Palm Beach Review had been approved as a Student Activity.

Action: None

Item 7: The Online Teaching Situation

Discussion: John Ribar gave a general update concerning the continuing issues with the online classes. He said there had been a meeting with Dr. Gallon to discuss the concerns. Dr. Gallon is interested in the teacher's predicament with online teaching issues.

Action: More updates to follow.

Item 8: Writing Sample for placement in writing courses

Discussion: Steve Brahlele discussed the need for a writing sample for placement in ENC 1101. The multiple choice test given does not reflect preparedness for ENC 1101. Steve Brahlele is developing a grading rubric for the placement test. Once the test is created students will be needed to pilot the placement test.

Action: Test is being developed and will need to be piloted

Item 9: Diagnostic Essay for ENC 1101

Discussion: Steve Brahlele led the discussion concerning the need for a diagnostic essay for ENC 1101. The diagnostic test essay would provide an objective evaluation of student writing. The test would need to be given early in the semester (probably the 3rd week of class). The essay would be graded holistically and the instructors could provide feedback to students. The students would be provided with a sheet that designated areas which need improvement. There is a need for funding for grading of the test as well as 2 Chair Persons. A rubric needs to be developed as well as setting the writing anchor. The item was voted on and passed unanimously.

Action: The proposal will be presented to the Assessment Committee.

Submitted by:

Melissa Stonecipher

Scribe

