

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES

ENGLISH

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

1:30pm

BA 204

Speech and other individual departments convened to separate meeting rooms.

In Attendance: Roberta Proctor, Matt Klauza, Tim Benham, Mike Marzelli, Diane Baird, Chris Pumphrey, Carole Policy, Brad Johnson, Regina Dilgen, Stephen Gibson, Pat Tierney, Trinna Frever, Mary Pernal, Mary Galvin, S. Brahlek, Chris Schmersahl, Jenifer Skolnick, P. Osterman, Nancy D. McDonald, Jackie Berg, Karin St. Pierre, Deborah Snowberger, John Ribar, Traci Klass, Edwin Peck, Susan Aguila, Melissa Stonecipher, David Nixon, Art Brockway, Nick LaRocca, Robin Fiedler

ITEM 1: College Legal Counsel and Dr. Sass regarding ENC 1101 student advising

Discussion: Dr. Sass shared a document—titled “Script for ENC1101 (based on in-class diagnostic testing)” —for faculty use/modification in diagnostic writing. Kevin Fernander, Legal Counsel for PBSC, spoke about a document/contract with students. Faculty discussed the need for such a document, sharing their concerns. Dr. Sass assured faculty that faculty will have to trust her: she has never been told that failure rates will affect faculty, and she has never told faculty that failure rates will affect them, because administration expects a high failure rate **the first semester or two**. Faculty raised concerns about being evaluated on student failure rates, citing the new proposed evaluation tool that directly requires student pass rates. Kevin Ferlander suggested educating students on the ramifications of their decisions. Dr. Sass shared the advising process that students undergo. (it was pointed out later in the meeting that a number of other schools are using a document/contract, and some require a signature).

ITEM 2: Matt Klauza – ENC 1101 Instructors and Student Advising

Discussion: Matt Klauza deferred item to Patrick T. who would speak on a similar issue. Matt also thanks Mary Pernal for taking minutes during his absence for the latter half of the September meeting.

ITEM 3: Patrick Tierney – ENC 1101 Common Diagnostic/Assignment

Discussion: Patrick suggested aligning a part(s) of 1101 to prevent students from “shopping around.” Discussion followed, including suggestions for addressing diagnostic exam, ethical issues,

whether students can be successful without PREP, and helping students make an informed choice.

Action: A common diagnostic/assessment will be tabled until Spring to see how 1101L goes.

Discussion: Matt Klauza solicited other faculty to meet after Spring term to compare 1101L online results and to explore ways to better serve students. Nick LaRocca agreed to join him.

ITEM 4: Robin Fiedler - Selection of 'one' 1102 Adjunct Textbook for implementation fall 2014.

Discussion: 1102 textbook is out of compliance. Dr. Sass has allowed the cluster to extend the compliance deadline to Fall 2014. LW faculty adjunct faculty use *Literature and the Writing Process*. Discussion over the inclusion of literature in 1102. Faculty suggested that the opinion of department chairs should be considered.

Motion: Motion to continue to use *Literature and the Writing Process* in the next year for adjuncts teaching 1102, while in the next year the faculty explores other options to consider for adoption in the Fall 2014, pending discussion with the third chair, Africa Fine (absent). (Seconded)

Action: Vote: 24 yes, 2 no. Motion passes.

Discussion: Discussion on whether the cluster textbook policy contains “no textbook” as an option

Action: Further textbook policy vote for full-time faculty’s 1102 text will be tabled for a later vote, pending investigation into the current cluster textbook policy.

ITEM 5: Chris Schmersahl – Cluster Procedure Policy

Motion: Chris Schmersahl moved to adopt “Resolution 1” [document distributed at the meeting and via previous email], forming a Rules Committee to develop operating and voting procedures for the English Cluster. (Seconded).

Discussion: Chris called for clarity on cluster procedures, presented the “Resolution 1: Formation of a Rules Committee” document. Faculty discussed the need for rules, whether the cluster have Roberts rules of order already. Faculty shared need to be able to air concerns. Faculty shared need to eliminate confusion about *how* they are voting, as well as the need for clear rules and clear votes.

Action: Vote: 21 yes, 2 abstain.

New Business

1. McGraw Hill has offered to allow any 1101 faculty to use their online product for free (to pilot it for free)

2. A Motion to require 1102 as a prerequisite for all 2000 level Gordon Rule classes.

Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding this motion/proposal and its effects on the AA degree and literature requirements for general ed. Faculty shared that Dr. Sass said in a previous meeting that less literature classes will be needed as a result of changes to the 1101L load. [Dr. Sass clarified this issue in an email to me. She writes, “I believe that I responded to a question posed by a faculty member as to who would be teaching the literature courses that we, the faculty members, currently teach. I believe that my response was ‘that either adjuncts would pick up the loads or there may be less sections offered.’ That is truly a campus decision, as the campus loads the sections.”] Faculty shared that Dr. Pederson said in a separate meeting that the literature requirement will not be taken away. Concerns were shared regarding the proposal’s effect on the Glades campus literature enrollment. Discussion over benefits and costs to better-prepared students in fewer sections vs. more under-prepared students in more sections.

Action: Motion withdrawn

3. Hybrid 1101L skills class will be accessed outside of BlackBoard.

4. Faculty shared praise of Robin’s efforts over the past several months.

Meeting Adjourned.

Matt Klauza

Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List