



**Palm Beach Community College
CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES**

**Prep English
Oct. 27, 2009
10:30 - noon
BA 125**

ITEM #1 – Course Outcomes with changes

Discussion: Reviewed current general and course learning outcomes

Data source consulted (where appropriate) PBCC Course Outline Database – Course Outline for ENC0001 and ENC0010

Action: Some changes have been suggested, nothing major, and we will check into how or if these changes can or need to be made.

ITEM #2 – Linked Classes.

Discussion: Due to the fact that we, as Prep English faculty, feel the linked classes, 8 weeks of ENC0001 immediately followed by 8 weeks of ENC0010, for example, are proving themselves to be successful, we recommend the use of them college-wide.

Data source consulted (where appropriate) experience and success in the classroom

Action: **Our cluster believes that the demonstrated success of linked courses warrants continued use and support throughout the entire college, on each campus. The benefits of linked courses include the following:**

- Intensive focus and immersion in subject helps prep students, especially those with time management and procrastination issues.
- Community of learners supports each other causing increased retention and success, not only within prep classes, but continuing through credit.
- Moving the “goal posts” closer helps students maintain focus and believe that they can be successful—if courses are appropriately scheduled, and depending on intake testing levels.. Prep I students can complete language prep courses in one semester and begin credit courses in the following semester. For those testing into Prep 2, if express terms are given, they can complete prep and credit in one semester.
- Paragraph-level writing is taught in Prep 1 and in the beginning of Prep 2. Linked courses allow instructor to immediately move Prep 2 students into the essay with a greater focus on grammar in context, leading to greater improvement.
- Intensive focus of linked courses is consistent with advising guidelines that suggest prep students take only two or three courses at a time.

- Students with language prep requirements are very limited in their choices of classes. If they can quickly and effectively complete language prep, they can continue with math prep while taking general ed. core courses.

Suggested fall term Express A / Express B offerings include the following:

- Prep 1 English → Prep 2 English
- Prep 2 English → ENC 1101
- Reading 2 → Strategies
- Reading 1 → Reading 2

Actions needed include the following:

- Working with dept. chairs to make sure that courses are scheduled
- Identification of students who would benefit and promotion of opportunity through Student Services and Advising; this will require training of SS staff.
- Training of staff on each campus regarding how to appropriately code and link courses.

OTHER - Valerie Lazzara is new Cluster Chair, and Carleton Chernekoff is Scribe.

Attendance:

Valerie Lazzara

Rachel McDermott

Patti Osterman

Carleton Chernekoff

Submitted by:

Carleton Chernekoff

Scribe

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