

# PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES CLUSTER MINUTES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Lake Worth Campus

---

The General Education Assessment Committee has selected two learning outcomes for the College to focus on for improvement. They are:

**Communications:** Develop effective reading, writing, speaking, listening, and nonverbal skills for a variety of audiences.

**ITEM 1**     **Please indicate what has been done this semester, or this past fall, in your cluster (or individual classes) to support these two general education learning outcomes? Be specific.**

Discussion:     As far as the Communication learning outcome is concerned, all Spanish professors in all Spanish classes will start to teach any Spanish grammar material in English so students can associate the grammatical concept to the corresponding one in their native language of English.

Data/data source:     Last Fall, 2009 at the Palm Beach Gardens campus, Spanish 1120 students did cultural research for their final oral presentation in English in order to present their findings to their classmates in Spanish and to the College at large during Diversity week last November 2009. Spanish 1121 students at PGB campus have participated for the last four semesters in a Service-Learning project called “*Aprende mientras esperas trabajo – Learn While You Wait to Find a Job*,” at “El Sol” Neighborhood Resource Center in Jupiter, Florida. The main task of Spanish students while doing this project is to help teach basic English to English As a Second Language students. At the end of the semester Spanish students write a transformation paper about their perspectives on community involvement, learning Spanish, and personal and professional awareness as a direct result of this experience. This spring semester 2010 at PBG campus Spanish students will participate in the first Spanish Language Week to enhance their Spanish skills and reinforce their English skills as well since all presentations will be in both languages, English and Spanish. This week of events is open to all Spanish students in all Palm Beach State College campuses. At Boca Raton campus the Spanish students had to attend two extracurricular activities and write a reaction papers in English. Boca Raton students also did one oral presentation in English about Hispanic culture. Honors Spanish students at Lake Worth campus are required to give oral presentations about famous figures of Spanish History.

Action:     The full time instructors unanimously approved to continue with the same methodology and cultural activities.

**ITEM 2**      **What will be done in your cluster, or individual classes, next fall semester that is new to support these two learning outcomes? Be specific.**

Discussion:    For next semester we will continue with the same methodology and cultural activities like having bilingual poetry nights, watching foreign language films, and asking students to write reaction papers in English, etc.

Action:        The Cluster unanimously approves this recommendation.

**Quantitative Reasoning:** Use college-level mathematical concepts and methods to understand, analyze, and explain issues in quantitative terms.

**ITEM 3**      **Please indicate what has been done this semester, or this past fall, in your cluster (or individual classes) to support these two general education learning outcomes? Be specific.**

Discussion:    We cover simple Mathematics concepts when we teach students numbers in Spanish and simple grammatical concepts like “Hay” there is/there are, and also telling time.  
For next semester we will teach percentages, averages, and we will continue teaching mathematical problems associated with the vocabulary in each chapter on topics such as cooking, shopping, traveling, and converting money, and other every day activities.

Action:        The Cluster unanimously approves this recommendation.

**ITEM 4**      **Reactivation of FRE 2200/2201.**

Discussion:    The Cluster agrees to reactivate FRE 2200/2201. Prof. Slesinger stated that he tried to reactive this course last Spring 2009 but it was not approved. Cluster members would like to reactive the French 2200/2201 classes since they believe there will be sufficient students to support the courses.

Action:        Reactivation form will be submitted to Academic Services.

**ITEM 5**      **A problem that is common to all of our Spanish classes is the increasing number of Spanish native speakers and Heritage speakers who register in the regular beginners’ classes which are not designed for advanced speakers.**

Discussion     We have a course for native Spanish speakers but it was cancelled due to low enrollment.

Action         These are the possible actions to resolve the above issue:  
-    Reactivate the Spanish for Native Speakers course and also require native speakers to take more advanced courses.  
-    Professor Mendez-Hasselmann will contact the office of Academic Affairs and Students Services in search of a solution. She will share the results with the rest of the cluster members.

**Attendance:**

Professor Victor Slesinger  
Professor Wendy Mendez-Hasselman  
Professor Patricia Betancourt (scribe)

Submitted by:

**Professor Patricia Betancourt**

[name], Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List