

Cluster Meeting Minutes
Health Science and Nutrition Cluster
Tuesday, October 9th, 2012

1. Nomination of cluster chair for Spring Semester 2013. Randy Gailey is unanimously approved as cluster chair and Tracy Ciucci will scribe.
2. Textbooks: Discussion regarding cost of textbook and potential areas of improvement.

Discussion to request the textbook liaison, Max Faquir, to request only textbook with no ancillary materials included for future orders with singular ISBN and all college HSC 2100 courses to have the same ISBN for HSC 2100 on all campuses. Ancillary materials can be requested by individual faculty at their discretion.

Discussion of having a textbook liaison is vital to our faculty success and is and has been crucial to the health of our textbook use and funneling any concerns/issues/improvements etc. through the liaison is expected. During the Spring 2013 cluster meeting the 2013/2014 textbook liaison will be nominated or self nominated for consideration as textbook liaison and will be voted on.

2. Hybrid Honors Sections rationale discussion. Tracy Ciucci has prepared a statement from the cluster, that will be forwarded to Nancy Zinser, who will bring this information forward as an advocate to the honors college and virtual committees. The entire cluster again supports honors courses being offered as hybrid and has seen the decline in attendance and an increase in cancelled courses due to low enrollment when not offered as hybrid, and requests the honors college begin offering hybrid courses again.

3. Other - Faculty identifying which courses they are currently teaching at other campuses and a wheel of courses being developed by cluster for all campuses.
4. The cluster requests to be included in committees addressing general education or graduation requirements for the future AA degree at Palm Beach State College, taking into consideration the state imposed requirements. Discussion of HSC 2100 future and graduation requirements and general education requirements being determined at the state level at this time. Once state level determination has been made as to general education requirements the health science cluster faculty is requesting to be included for any discretionary committees for determination of additional or discretionary general education requirements or graduation requirements determined by the college. We ask to please be considered for committee participation for determination of general education requirements and courses offered as electives or AA graduation requirements.

In Attendance:
Brian Findley

Bob VanDerveld
Richard Madsen
Kristy Williams
Paula Myslivecek
Tracy Ciucci
Randy Gailey
Trish Froehlich
Barbara Goldman
Jeanne Boone
Judith Sharlin

Not in Attendance
Bob Rajcoomar
Max Faquir

October 15th, 2012

Dear Executive Leadership Council,

HSC 2100, Healthy Living and HUN 1201, Nutrition, had been taught for many years as hybrid courses until Fall of 2011. Since they have been required to be offered as face to face not one section of HSC 2100 has filled. The honors students are busy, high achieving students with an incredible understanding of technology, and learn significantly more in a multifaceted hybrid version of these courses than a face to face faculty centered seminar style class.

The HSC 2100 course discusses different topics on a weekly basis ranging from infectious disease, contraception, cancer, nutrition, and human sexuality, all the way to heart disease, depression, mental health, suicide and beyond. It is not productive class time to lecture when students can view my lectures as edited videos and voiced over powerpoints at their leisure outside of class time. This allows us to be able to use our class time for truly incredible high level thinking activities such as group presentations, role playing, moderated debate on current topics, and interactive student led discussion on a range of topics, all the while displaying our collaborative work from our online portion of the class together in class as another learning tool.

Because of the students already high level of dedication to the course, combined with their superior understanding of many existing health concepts, and high computer literacy as honors students, they immediately acclimate to the hybrid situation and we hit the ground running for an advanced semester. Students in an honors hybrid section are motivated and doing their best work. These students are naturally better at mastering concepts and taking the next step in applying those concepts in real life activities in actual class time, collaboration online, presentation, and asynchronous discussion. Students develop higher order skills of critical thinking and problem solving in utilizing the concepts and theories learned and apply it to real world problems and

activities in an online arena, which allows them to not just absorb the information, but to live it by being an integral part of knowing all facets of application to themselves, current, events, and the real world.

Courses offered as hybrids lead to higher participation than in a face to face setting, specifically of such sensitive material. It allows the student to become an active learner in their journey and requires they participate in student centered learning, which is exactly what honors students excel in. Threaded discussion is also a unique and valuable tool online that allows students to discuss difficult topics more freely and openly than they ever would in a classroom setting and this is perfectly in line with our very personal course topics. The discussions generated online regarding these topics are incredibly higher quality than can be achieved in a face to face hour long class period. Hybrids lend themselves to a higher level student and fit the needs of our honors population. Honors students especially learn more from active engagement and discussion than from traditional lectures, and they require faculty who can engage them in this material. There is no place to hide in an online environment and they are highly accountable for their work, which is why this group excels in a hybrid setting.

I know at Palm Beach State College we strive to provide dynamic teaching and accessible educational opportunities for all, and offering our highest level of students the opportunity they deserve to fully enrich their education in this area is critical. While my courses were offered as hybrid classes I had the highest praise from the students of a course that was a more advanced and smartly crafted machine of teaching honors health. The hybrid format allowed them the opportunity to be actively engaged in every way, and take them into the world of learning that was both in and beyond the classroom, which is where this incredible group of students belongs and it would be a shame to not give them this full opportunity at learning in a highly multifaceted way.

Sincerely,

Tracy Ciucci
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*The Health Science and Nutrition Cluster members in attendance of our cluster meeting in the Fall of 2012 also voted in support of this message and respectfully encourage the Executive Leadership Council to reconsider offering honors courses as hybrids.