



Palm Beach State College
SPEECH COMMUNICATION CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES
Speech Communication
March 24th, 2011
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Held in Lake Worth, Main Campus, Room BA109

ITEM I. MINUTES:

Discussion: The minutes of the October, 27th, 2010, cluster meeting were reviewed.

Data source: Copy of the October 27th, 2010 minutes.

Action: Motion was made by Gent to approve the October 27, 2010 Minutes as submitted. Millas seconded the motion. All nine members present voted in favor of the motion.

ITEM II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. DISTRICT SPEECH CONTEST:

Discussion: The discussion focused on the seven criteria for the Speech Contest. Point number two regarding penalties was discussed, and was finalized at a later time in the meeting. Also, criteria number six, was amended from February 15, until March 25 (the date.) Additionally, criteria number seven was amended to “the top six finishers will be awarded cash prizes.” Next, the discussion focused on the length of the speeches, penalties for exceeding the time periods, and the grounds for disqualification. Crane suggested that the judges use a system of warning lights to alert the contestants when their time was exhausted for the speech. Discussion took place for several minutes about the “light” warning system, and it was agreed by all cluster members that the lights be considered as a possible option for the contest.

Data source: Copy of the “Final Criteria” for the Speech Contest (Pending Cluster approval.)

Action: Motion made by Lori Crane to approve the agenda for the District Speech Competition, and seconded by Joe Millas

Discussion: Approval of Speech Contest wording.

Data source: The written rules and guidelines for the Speech Contest

Action: Russal made a motion that the criteria one, three, four five, and six be approved as worded, and that criteria seven be amended to include “the top six finishers will be awarded cash prizes.” Russal also included in this motion that the range of time for the speech remain at between four to six minutes; however, the minimum range for disqualification become 3:45 to 6:15. Motion was seconded by Crane. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion: Pachter suggested that we as a cluster remove the word “*significant*” from the proposed topic for the speech competition. The topic was, “*Political Correctness is a significant threat to American’s Right to freedom of Speech.*”

The time and date of the speech competition was announced. The time would be from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2011. Names of contestants will be submitted by Monday, April 11th. The number of participants for the contest will be limited to three speakers from each of the four campuses.

Data source: The official topic for the speech contest

Action: Pachter made a motion that the word “significant” be removed from the topic for the upcoming speech contest. Russal seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

B. DISTRICT-WIDE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **“What are discipline-specific ethics that are currently being used in your courses?”**
Students are required to cite sources during speeches and to supply source credibility, and speakers have an obligation to honesty. First Amendment Rights, ethics of a leader, and we all (professors) refer to the student code of conduct

2. **“Information Literacy is the ability to find, evaluate, organize, and use information and it is one of the general education learning outcomes at the College. How does the faculty in this Cluster (speech communication) approach information literacy through assignments, projects or activities. Please provide some examples.”**

Wolesensky stated that she has student bring computers to the classroom was went on to state that she instructs them, and then requires them to do research on both primary source and on opposing points of view (credible source.)

Crane stated that when she teaches the “Debate Course”, she uses one of the class periods to take her students to the library so they can become both familiar and comfortable researching information. Also, mentioned during this discussion was how to assess the credibility of a source.

3. **“Nomination of courses for inclusion in general education.”**

Emily Oliver (adjunct) suggested pre-requests courses (or testing) for students before they would be allowed to take SPC1017 “Fundamentals of Communication.” Crane suggested identifying students who needed help in this area. Because of time constraints, this discussion about prerequisites was tabled.

C. SELECTION OF DISTRICT-WIDE TEXTBOOK FOR ALL ADJUNCTS

* (Mandatory use)

Discussion: The discussion began with Professor Escoffery reading an in-depth review of the four textbooks which were under consideration. This adjunct instructor, Katherine Royce, cited both pro and con reasons for each textbook the cluster had suggested, but she (Royce) believed that “Communicating Effectively,” by Wood, was the best text of the four.

After several minutes of discussion, the Chair, Wolessensky, asked for a “*straw vote*” to see where the Cluster members stood on the selection of the textbook.

The four textbooks that the cluster had to choose “one” from are listed below.

- 1 “Communicating Effectively,” By Hybels
- 2 “Communication In Our Lives,” by Wood
- 3.”COMM2, by Verderber, Verderber and Sellnow
- 4 “Traditional,” Verderber

The results of the straw vote were:

“Communicating Effectively” by Hybels,	1 vote.
“Communication In Our Lives,” Wood,	1 vote
“Traditional Communication,” Verderber,	0 votes
“COMM2,” Verderber,	7 votes

Data Source: List of four textbooks being considered by the Speech Cluster.

Action: Pachter made a motion that “The cluster accept the ‘COMM2’ textbook as the mandatory text for all the adjuncts to use, District Wide. The motion passed with unanimous decision. (nine yea votes)

Discussion: Crane then suggested that we get something in writing from Cengage publishing, and that the chapter on “Mass Communication” be only “On-line.”

Gent then made a suggestion that Cengage commit to a “dollar figure” and that they “lock in” a price on the book for a period of 36 months. Crane and Pachter concurred and also expressed a concern about adequate copies of the textbooks for students to purchase.

Action: Pachter then made a motion to have Cengage Publishing “strike” item 6, c and d, from the book contract and commit to a specific dollar figure. After a few minutes of open discussion amongst cluster members, Pachter withdrew her motion.

However, Crane then made the following motion: “That Diane Bifano (Speech Communication Liaison,) coordinates with Cengage Learning issues with the new Product Agreement and Dean Bifano will then email the “full-time” faculty the outcome of her discussions.”

The motion was seconded by Pachter. Motion was put to a vote and it passed unanimously.

Discussion: Escoffery then stated she wanted to know where the online for Mass Media would come from, and she was told it would come from the Wood text.

Action: None taken

D. Decision and Announcements on the Cluster Chair and Scribe for the 2011-2012 year.

Discussion: Appointment of the Cluster Chair and Scribe for the 2011-2012 school year.

Action: Childers would rotate into the Chair position, and Crane would hold the position of Scribe.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS AND/OR CLUSTER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Russal shared with the Cluster information about the upcoming “Holocaust Remembrance Day,” He stated that Deborah Libstat would be the guest speaker, and that it would be “live streaming” at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 31st.

Diane Bifano announced to the Cluster that our Cluster Fund contained \$7,793.63 dollars.

Action: Motion to adjourn was made by Childers and seconded by Russal. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: (Eight cluster Members Attended)

David Childers (Scribe)
Lori Crane
Leonie Escoffery
Victor Gent
Elizabeth Martin
Joe Millas
Marcie Pachter
Barry Russal
Bobette Wolesensky (Chair)
* Diane Bifano (Liaison)

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE:

Marie Nicholl
Julia Chinnis
Emily Oliver
Kim Kamuca

ABESNT:

Nancy Levin
Steve Frishman

Submitted by: David C. Childers

[name], Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List