

# PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

## [CLUSTER/COMMITTEE] MEETING MINUTES

[Speech Communication]

October 9, 2012

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Lake Worth Campus BA 109

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### **ITEM 1. Approval of the Agenda**

Discussion: Several items were added to the agenda—debate tournament, class size discussion, and speech class for non-native speakers.

Data/data source: Agenda dated October 9, 2012

Action: Motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Joe Millas. Motion passed unanimously

### **ITEM 2. Veteran's Day**

Discussion: Mike McMullen addressed the cluster about a Veteran's Day initiative for next fall—appealing to faculty to add a veteran's awareness assignment to their course/syllabus and to spread the word on each campus. He will also provide more information to any faculty member who is interested.

Data/data source: Mike McMullen

Action: Cluster members acknowledged the importance and value of the issue.

### **ITEM 3. Welcome and Introductions**

Discussion: Cluster members and guests introduced themselves

Data/data source: None

Action: Everyone was welcomed and special mention was made of our three new full-time Speech faculty members –Michelle Biferie, Dave Rossman, and Megan Tomei

**ITEM 4. Minutes**

Discussion: The Minutes from March 22, 2012 were reviewed

Data/data source: Speech Communication Cluster Minutes dated March 22, 2012

Action: No changes were made. The Minutes were unanimously approved

**ITEM 5. New Class Size Minimums**

Discussion: The members of the Speech Cluster would like to formally express their concern about the decision to increase the *minimum* class size requirements as stated in the Minutes of the Academic Deans' Council dated October 2, 2012. "In light of budget issues and the need for additional seats, and looking at attrition rates in classes, it was decided to raise the MINIMUM class sizes on the following types of classes, effective Spring 2013:...SPC 1017 will be raised to 28. When possible and if the classroom allows for it, class size should be moved beyond these stated MINIMUM guidelines."

This initiative could have a serious negative impact on performance based Speech Communication courses such as SPC 1017 by compromising our ability to effectively achieve the Cluster approved Course Learning Outcomes. The primary concern of Cluster members is that the guidelines are for *minimum* class sizes and if these limits are increased according to room size then the integrity of the course could be affected in terms of the length and number of speeches that students could give in one semester.

Data/data source: Minutes of the Academic Deans' Council dated October 2, 2012.

Action: None

**ITEM 6. Cluster Funds**

Discussion: The current balance in the Cluster fund remains unchanged at \$14,621.63. The Cluster receives no royalties from the publisher at this point. Lori Crane attended a meeting this past spring with the IT Dept., a number of faculty members as well as administrators, and based on the discussions at that meeting she reported that the College was not allowing any funding for the purchase of Ipads for use by faculty. There is no support for that initiative through the IT Dept. and the College feels that it may put them at risk for a lot of ancillary issues and expenses. Cluster members agreed that this issue can be revisited at a future time in the event that College policy changes.

Data/data source: None

Action: None

**ITEM 7. Cengage Publishing Update**

Discussion: David Childers advised the Cluster that he had not yet received a response to his inquiries as to the status of the product agreement with the COMM 2 textbook. Currently there is no contract or written obligation from Cengage.

Data/data source: None

Action: None

**ITEM8. Speech Contest**

Discussion: Steve Frishman opened the discussion by sharing some of the challenges presented by the current format of the Annual Peggy Raker Speech Contest. The timing of the contest was a major problem for some faculty in terms of getting students competition-ready by the designated date. Marcie Pachter noted that the contest has lost momentum and that it might be more productive to organize some form of speaking event—a showcase of good speakers, a debate, or a competition—at a campus level rather than district-wide.

Steve made a motion to suspend the current district wide speech contest format and explore campus based activities of a similar nature. The motion was unanimously approved.

Cluster members then discussed the need to allocate a modest budget for each campus to pursue some type of speaking event if the faculty supported that initiative. To continue to honor Peggy Raker and Nancy Levin—the campus based events could be named in their honor—with Boca being likely to honor Peggy and Gardens to name their event in honor of Nancy.

Marcie Pachter made a motion that each campus be granted an initial budget of up to \$500.00 per year to be used in the initiation of a speech related campus event. After the respective events have concluded each campus will inform the Cluster as to the outcome or success of the event. Joe Millas seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Data/data source: None

Action: Campus faculty will meet each year and decide whether or not they want to host a speech related event for their campus, and determine the nature of that event.

**ITEM 9. SPC 1017 Online Course**

Discussion: Leonie Escoffery updated the Cluster about the current SPC 1017 online course being taught by adjunct Professor Larry Sexton from the Gardens campus. The main concern raised was the need to ensure that the course required students to present their speeches in front of an audience—rather than just recording themselves giving the speech and uploading it for the professor to grade. Professor Sexton meets that requirement by having

students give their speeches in front of an audience of at least 6-8 people. The Cluster was advised the Professor Sexton would be happy to give them access to the course, but as he was still tweaking and troubleshooting a few technical glitches –it would be best to view it once those minor adjustments were made. David Childers expressed his interest in reviewing the course. It was mentioned that the new Collaborate program provided by the College may be a good resource to help to meet the “public speaking” criteria of the course.

The Cluster also discussed the possibility of creating a Speech Cluster template that could be used as a starting point for any instructor who wanted to teach SPC 1017 online. The template would help the Cluster to feel confident that the online course appropriately reflected the course learning outcomes.

Lori Crane made a motion that a subcommittee be formed to work on developing criteria for “best practices” for an online SPC 1017 course, and then bring their recommendations back to the Cluster at our spring meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Data/data source: None

Action: Michelle Biferie, Elizabeth Martin, Dave Rossman, and Leonie Escoffery volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

#### **ITEM 10. Debate Tournament**

Discussion: Lori Crane informed the Cluster that the Honors College had approached her about organizing a Debate Tournament on the Lake Worth campus. Initially Lori was planning to ask the Cluster for assistance with funding the debate tournament, but in light of the new policy of having campus based speech related events rather than a district wide speech contest—it was decided that the debate could represent such an event.

Data/data source: None)

Action: Lori Crane will defer to the Lake Worth Speech faculty campus committee and request that they allot a portion of their \$500.00 speech event budget to help to fund the Debate Tournament.

#### **ITEM 11. Speech Class for Non-Native Speakers**

Discussion: Steve Frishman raised the issue that with the increasingly diverse student population –a trend which is expected to continue—it may be beneficial to explore the possibility of developing or re-instating a speech class designed specifically for non-native English speakers. Marcie Pachter developed and taught such a course and would be an excellent resource if the course was approved.

Data/data source: None

Action: Steve Frishman agreed to pursue the feasibility of re-instating a speech course for non-native English speakers.

**ITEM 12. Announcements**

Discussion: Elizabeth Martin announced that she would be attending a publishing Conference with some of the students who work on the Beachcomber, and that she has been nominated for Vice-President of the Florida College System Publishing Association.

Data/data source: None

Action: Cluster members all expressed congratulations to Elizabeth on her nomination, and the excellent work that she has done as Faculty Advisor for the Beachcomber.

<b>Attendance:</b>	Lori Crane, Chair	Dave Rossman	Steve Frishman
Marcie Pachter	Michelle Biferie	Elizabeth Martin	Dave Childers
Megan Tomei	Joe Millas	Leonie Escoffery, Scribe	
Guests:	Mark Kattoura	Herb Sennett	Kim Kamuca
Mike McMullen			

Submitted by:

*Leonie Escoffery*

Leonie Escoffery,  
Scribe

cc: Minutes  
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