



**CLUSTER/COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
SPEECH COMMUNICATION CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES**

**October 27, 2010**

**1:30 – 3:30 P.M.**

**Held in BA109 (Lake Work Campus)**

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**ITEM 1. Minutes**

Discussion: Approval of the minutes from the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Speech Cluster meeting.

Data source: Copy of the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010, meeting.

Action: Motion by Russal to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Millas. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.

**ITEM II. A.** New Business- Mandated District Item about plagiarism. Two parts: First, “How prevalent is plagiarism in our field, “ and “How do we deal with plagiarism when it occurs.”

Discussion: The discussion was centered on the question that Dr. Sass asked us to consider: “Plagiarism: Not Just for English Classes.” The cluster discussed [1] how prevalent plagiarism is in our field, [2] resources to for us to reduce the cases of plagiarism, [3] how to guard against it, and [4] what can be done to curtail the problem.

Russal said he makes students cite sources for both oral (during a speech) and written assignments.

Other suggestions were to review with students what plagiarism is and the consequences of committing it. Also recommended was requiring students to cite sources, and to make it clear to them that we, as professors, have access to sites where we can check for plagiarism within their work, i.e. online plagiarism software. Pachter stated that to discourage plagiarism she tells all her students that she (we) have access to these internet resources.

Russal also indicated that he makes sure his students know about the ramifications and consequences of plagiarizing material., and that the PBSC Student Handbook is clear about the Academic Dishonesty policy at the college. Russal suggested that it might be a good practice to put a statement in our syllabi regarding plagiarism.

Crane offered the idea of putting a notation on a student’s academic transcript if caught cheating or plagiarizing. She indicated that the notation should stay on a student’s transcript for a certain period of time, and then be removed if no further infractions occur.

**ITEM III: ACCOUNT BALANCE:**

This item was passed over at this time. Our Liaison, Diane Bifano, had not yet arrived at the meeting; therefore the cluster moved on to item four.

**ITEM IV. TEXTBOOK REVIEW DISCUSSION**

Discussion The central question under consideration was the following:

“The Speech Cluster shall do a district-wide adoption of one standard textbook for all faculty who teach SPC1017.”

The discussion began with Gent and Martin passing out 12 textbooks to each professor in attendance. Gent and Martin were members of an ad-hoc committee charged with the responsibility of contacting different publishers and making the arrangements necessary to have “those publishers” send desk copies for our review and evaluation. We were asked to review the books and rank order our top three picks.

The discussion then went into the area of academic freedom and the ability of each professor to teach from the book he or she chooses. Gent noted that all of us (faculty members) come from different backgrounds and cultures, which affects our worldview, ergo, our teaching. Therefore, Gent argued that, as a matter of academic freedom, each full-time faculty member should have the right to select his or her own material for class, and should not be compelled to use a prescribed textbook. Frishman and Childers both stated that they concurred with Gent.

Crane then raised the concern that if an adjunct became unavailable mid-semester—which has happened—how would one of the full-time faculty members be able to step in to complete the course if he or she was not familiar with the textbook. She brought this up as a possible justification for the college-wide common text.

Gent and Childers both made the argument that all of the full-time faculty members were knowledgeable enough in the speech communication field to basically be able to walk into a classroom at any point in the semester and teach the course. Gent noted that the actual number of observed instances of adjuncts resigning in the middle of the term is very “infrequent; and therefore, does not justify impinging on our academic freedom.

Pachter then posed the question, “should we do a textbook review for both adjuncts and full-time?”

Russal then made the suggestion that we should narrow down the textbook selection to a group of “three to five” textbooks from which each professor would have to choose from.

There was also some general discussion regarding selecting a text for all adjuncts to use.

A motion was then made by Crane as follows: “The Speech Cluster shall do a district-wide adoption of one standard textbook for all faculty who teach SPC1017.”

Pachter seconded the motion, and a vote was taken.

Votes were cast as follows:

Aye- Pachter, Millas Escoffery, Crane, Russal  
Nay- Wolesensky, Frishman, Gent, Childers, Martin

Because Levin was not present, it was decided that Levin should be contacted by email and that her vote would be the deciding vote to pass or reject the motion. Therefore, this issued was tabled until Levin could be contacted.

Crane suggested that we should shorten the list of textbooks to a handful (three to four), and that the Speech Cluster could have a short meeting after the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 faculty meeting at the Lake Worth campus. Diane Bifano, who had just earlier arrived at the meeting, said she would reserve a room for us on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 between 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

**ITEM: V THE ANNUAL SPEECH COMPETITION:**

It was agreed upon that the speech competition would again be held at the Gardens Campus in April, 2011. The details would be worked out in a following meeting.

**ITEM III. ACCOUNT BALANCE:**

Bifano told the Speech Cluster members that there is approximately \$3100.00 (thirty-one hundred dollars) in the Cluster's account. Bifano said she would get the exact figure to us in the next couple of days.

A motion to adjourn was made by Stephen Frishman, seconded by Lori Crane and passed unanimously.

**OTHER:**

N/A

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Diane Bifano (Liaison)  
David Childers (scribe)  
Lori Crane  
Leonie Escoffery  
Bobette Wolesensky  
(Chair)  
Barry Russal  
Kim Camuca  
Joe Millas  
Marcie Pachter  
Steve Frishman

**ABSENT:**

Nancy Levin

Submitted by:

David C. Childers  
[name], Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List

**ADDENDUM:**

On Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:18 p.m. Joe Millas made the following motion via email:

**“Full-time faculty from each campus choose a common SPC 1017 text to be used by full-time faculty on that campus.”**

Bobette Wolesensky seconded that motion at 2:22 p.m. on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Between November 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and November 18<sup>th</sup> the motion was open for discussion via email.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:16 p.m. Bobette Wolesensky called for a vote on the motion.

The following is the final vote:

**Aye:** Joe Millas; Marcie Pachter; Lori Crane

**Nay:** Leonie Escoffery; Victor Gent; Nancy Levin, Barry Russal; David Childers Stephen Frishman; Bobette Wolesensky.

**Abstain:** Sharon Martin

**MOTION DEFEATED**