

# PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

## CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES

ENGLISH

Monday, January 5, 2015

9:00-11:00am

BA 204

---

**In Attendance:** Brockway, Arthur J; Chambers, Lauren R; Cuthbertson, Charles T; Frever, Trinna S; Klauza, Matt D; Larson, Holly A; Pernal, Mary C; Pumphrey, Christopher; Schmersahl, Christopher J; Skolnick, Jenifer A; Aguila, Susan D; Baird, Diane S; Abbondanza, David L; Beck, Bruce M; Benham, Timothy L; Berg, Jacquelynn R; Brahle, Steve J; Dilgen, Regina M; Duncan, David D; Fiedler, Robin; Galvin, Mary E; Gibson, Stephen M; Johnson, Bradley R; Klass, Traci M; Larocca, Nicholas T; Marzelli, Michael A; McDonald, Nancy D; McDonald, Patricia R; Nixon, David H; Peck, Edwin; Osterman, Patricia P; Policy, Carole D; Proctor, Roberta L; Snowberger, Deborah I; Stonecipher, Melissa; St Pierre, Karin L; Tierney, Patrick

### 1. Reviewed Minutes

- Anonymously approved

### 2. Report from Writing Programs Group

- Divided into subgroups – ENC 1101L, ENC 1101, and ENC 1102
- Problems with no sequence: the order should be ENC 1101, ENC 1102, then 2000 literature course. We need to talk to other departments to change prerequisite (ex. take ENC 1101 before taking a psychology course that demands a research paper)
- We need to decide how to address curriculum with other departments
- Gordon rule courses should be part of the writing program; writing is not the sole responsibility of the English department
- Why not make all students regardless of major take ENC 1102
- We need to talk to other departments what Writing Across Curriculum (WAC) is
- General Education committee is addressing these concerns above regarding Gordon Rule, WAC, inter department communication regarding writing responsibility

- One colleague expressed concerned about academic freedom; another expressed that there can be “alignment without standardization” that does not violate academic freedom
- Should we have standards for adjuncts and not full-time?
- Need to define “outcomes” vs. “standards” to make sure we are clear
- Critical thinking should be the main tenant of ENC 1101 and ENC 1102
- If there is going to be any significant changes then there needs to be a decrease in class size
- Students come into ENC 1101 poorly prepared
- Should we keep ENC 1101’s standards intact (rigorous standards)?
- We need to focus on transferring skills – why are students are not transferring writing skills from course to course

### **3. Report from ENC 1101L Group**

- Quick survey among English faculty present at cluster: 25 colleagues are dissatisfied with ENC 1101L; 22 among these 25 colleagues believe that the ENC 1101L can be reformed, 3 abstained from voting on the ENC 1101L; 6 want to get rid of the lab; 2 completely happy with ENC 1101L
- Three main ideas how to handle ENC 1101L: 1. Discontinue the lab, 2. Keep it but change it, and 3. Let instructors choose if they want to teach it or not
- Patty spoke to Dr. Ginger Pedersen about ENC 1101L; Dr. Pedersen expressed feeling uncomfortable making changes to ENC 1101L without data. She will provide preliminary data soon. In addition, Dr. Pedersen said that we have no authority to discontinue the course. Further, Dr. Pedersen mentioned to Patty that we should first have a workshop to teach all instructors how to teach ENC 1101L
- Dr. Sass wants to decrease online lab and increase face to face
- Questions of financial compensation
- Problems with logistics and registration; students know they do not need the course
- We need more cooperation and collaboration with Registrar, IT, advisors
- Labs need to be linked to ENC 1101 courses so we have the same students in lab and in ENC 1101
- Roberta had a successful ENC 1101L and will be more than happy to share her lesson plans and strategies
- Several faculty mentioned that there is anecdotal data from three semesters working with ENC 1101L to know what needs improvement and if we need students taking the same instructor in lab and in ENC 1101
- Cluster will put a letter together to address the need to align lab and ENC 1101 together
- Should adjuncts be able to teach ENC 1101L; this may be a problem with adjuncts only allowed to teach three courses
- Review of when to use WN (those who never attend) and WX (those who are no longer attending in the middle of the semester)

#### **4. Two Online Products Presented by Patrick Tierney**

- Piloting Pearson
  - it is more adaptive than Bedford
  - it offers a grammar and reading program
  - every outcome of ENC 1101L is addressed
- Piloting Bedford
  - It is more adaptive than Bedford
  - instructors can pick own modules
  - Instructors can individually open modules for students who need more assistance

#### **5. Online Product (Grammarly) by Robin Fiedler**

- Robin showed how Grammarly works – it provides suggestions and editorial comments on students papers
- Robin demonstrated how she first has students use Smarthinking for assistance on thesis statements, then Grammarly for mechanical structure and grammar, and finally her feedback
- General Education committee would be interested in purchasing for non-English departments.
- Robin will contact representative from Grammarly to see about cost