



ENGLISH CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES

8/19/2016

10:45AM-12:00PM

BA 204

ITEM 1. New Faculty Introductions

Discussion: Laura Clouse (chair) introduced new faculty members by campus (7 total) and Dr. Berkowitz introduced VPAA Dr. Roger Yohe

Data/data source: Palm Beach State College

Action: None required

ITEM 2. Lowered Class Sizes

Discussion: Several classes were selected to pilot the lower class size concept for ENC1101. Elizabeth Wilber spoke regarding the subcommittee's work. The overall recommendation was rejected, but five sections each at PBG, LW, and BR were capped at 22 students (as opposed to the standard of 28). Not yet known is what the results of the experiment will be compared to – all ENC1101 courses, same professor's non-lowered classes, previous terms, or other. Patti Osterman identified that the experiment is flawed by the random selection of professors to receive smaller classes. Dr. Berkowitz reviewed earlier discussions on the topic and that grade results between adjuncts and full-time faculty were very comparable. Dr. Yohe stated that the idea and structure behind any experiment should come from the faculty, and that he is open to suggestions and new data. He recommended implementing the more formal study as originally intended in the spring. Dr. Berkowitz stated that, if the data ultimately shows that reducing class sizes does increase success rates, it creates a new problem in the need for additional sections of ENC1101. Robin Fiedler brought up the issue of using the opportunity of smaller classes to focus on specific student interaction. Dr. Berkowitz asked us to revisit the idea of a department-wide holistic exam.

Data/data source: None yet

Action: The experiment will be properly adopted in the spring and the data gained analyzed next summer.

ITEM 3. Textbook Adoption Procedure

Discussion: Laura Clouse asked if we needed a change in the textbook adoption process for the required adjunct textbooks. Dean Sheila Scott-Lubin brought up that several adjuncts were using open-source materials and not requiring a textbook, which is against current policy. There was a question about whether the cluster had defined a specific process for adjunct textbook adoption, and whether the cluster chose them or the department chairs. Regina Dilgen recommended a new policy wherein the department chairs would meet as a committee and recommend a textbook mandated for the adjuncts. Matt Klauza brought up the issue that many adjuncts do not like the chosen text, and would prefer to use open-source materials, different textbooks, or no book at all. Art Brockway moved to strike items 1 and 3 from the 2002 Cluster Textbook Procedure Policy. Patti Osterman asked to amend the motion to affirm that all full-time professors can select their own materials or lack thereof. Laura Clouse moved to adopt Art Brockway's motion with the amendment ("To strike item #1 and item #3 from cluster textbook procedure policy, in the document affirmed in 2002, and that all full time professors may choose their own materials, including textbooks.) and Robin Fiedler seconded. Motion passed 34-1 (2 abstentions). Africa Fine moved to amend item #2 of the document as follows: "The cluster chooses to have the department chairs at each campus determine adjunct materials for ENC1101 and ENC1102." Question arose whether this applies to each campus or a committee decision by department chairs, and it was clarified to mean each individual campus may have different texts. Patti Osterman seconded. Motion passed 34-0 (3 abstentions).

Data/data source:

Action: Changes made to 2002 Cluster Textbook Procedure Policy.

ITEM 4. Civility in Cluster

Discussion: Mary Pernal brought up the issue that people need to demonstrate respect for alternative views within cluster, because a contentious or aggressive tenor to the meeting can intimidate many into silence, when they may have good ideas to contribute. Steve Brahlek identified that the cluster has grown significantly in recent years and that more decorum is necessary to allow everyone to participate. Art Brockway discussed the importance of parliamentary procedure in maintaining order and discussion. Patti Osterman added that discordant meetings reflect the aggressive polarization of the country at large.

Data/data source:

Action:

ITEM 4. Students being advised into LIT1000

Discussion: Zach Stewart brought up the issue that students are being advised into LIT1000 at the expense of other literature classes, and it was acknowledged that this is occurring at all campuses. Laura Clouse suggested that the issue be brought up at individual campus department meetings with deans.

Data/data source:

Action: Laura Clouse suggested that the issue be brought up at individual campus department meetings with deans. Chris Schmersahl motioned to adjourn. David Nixon seconded and passed by acclamation.

OTHER.

Attendance:	Laura Clouse	Robin Fiedler	Traci Klass
	Karen Reardon	Rachel McDermott	John Ribar
	Africa Fine	Adella Irizarry	Rhonda Trust Schwartz
	Sue Aguila	David Abbondanza	Deborah Snowberger
	Marcy Katz	Jodi Weiss	Patti Osterman
	Elizabeth Wilber	Bruce Beck	Steve Brahle
	Nataliya Romenescu	Mark Gatlin	Charles Cuthbertson
	Art Brockway	Rich Shepherdson	Jennifer Ailles
	Melissa Stonecipher	Lauren Chambers	Jenifer Skolnick
	Pat Tierney	Matt Klauza	Tim Benham
	Jackie Berg	Pat McDonald	Regina Dilgen
	Edwin Peck	Mary Pernal	Chris Pumphrey
	Chris Schmersahl	Valrie Martin	Nick Larocca
	Brad Johnson	David Nixon	David Duncan
	Gaynor Walsh	Zachary Stewart	

Submitted by:

Zachary Stewart

[name], Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List