

CLUSTER AGENDA
January 5, 2015
9:30 am to 12 pm
Lake Worth Campus

ITEM 1. Registration and Enrollment

Discussion: Chuck Zettler shared some information regarding registration dates, Title V initiatives, and other programs to both boost enrollment and help students succeed at PBSC (Quest summer programming, prescriptive scheduling, & marketing to HS guidance counselors and students). The cluster recommended adjusting the fall registration start date to allow more students to attend the advising sessions built-in to the SLS course before the registration window opens. Cluster members suggested the prescriptive schedules include required time between classes for students to go to the labs to complete their assignments. Another strategy to increase student success and retention was that students take 4 eight week courses (2 at a time) during their first year to allow them to focus more closely on fewer classes. Chuck informed the cluster that effective in 2016-1, students must retake SLS 1501 if they fail the course.

The SLS cluster confirms that the newly revised SLS 1501, Introduction to the College Experience, **should be offered to and required of incoming freshman during their first YEAR rather than first term.** This is the model that the cluster unanimously prefers (and originally intended) for SLS 1501. Some students may benefit from taking the course in the second semester (for example: EAP students after gaining more confidence in their English skills or “advanced” high school students who might benefit more from the course after completing a college semester and having a better understanding of how the demands of college and high school differ). Additionally, spreading out the number of sections of SLS 1501 between the two terms will reduce the number of adjunct faculty needed in the fall term, help secure teaching loads for full-time faculty in the spring term, and reduce the impact on the other staff who provide the “orientation” sessions built-in to SLS (advising, career center, library, and SLC labs). An advising flag (or registration hold) must be put into place to ensure that those students who do not take the course in their first semester, sign up for it in the second semester.

Data/data source: (where appropriate) N/A

Action: Chuck Zettler will share our comments with his team and report back to us later in the semester (regarding registration dates for 2016, Title V initiatives, and feedback on our suggestions).

ITEM 2. FYE

Discussion: Theresa Cusimano shared ideas that are in the planning stages for the FYE program. She also asked the cluster for input on ways to strengthen the SLS 1501- FYE connection. Cluster members agreed that they fully support this relationship and will work with Theresa to improve the program.

Data/data source: (where appropriate) N/A

Action: Theresa Cusimano will send us updates regarding programming proposals/ideas.

ITEM 3. Learning Outcomes

Discussion: Monica Hamlin led a discussion regarding ways to ensure that SLS 1501 is more consistent college wide. Cluster members shared ideas, such as having critical assignments tied with each of the learning outcomes. Monica also stated that Learning Outcome #1 dealing with the college culture must be addressed further (What should it cover? How should we teach it? How do we measure it?).

The cluster also discussed focusing more on creating content versus aligning the course with one particular textbook. Monica suggested that we might look into creating our own book to meet the unique needs of PBSC students.

Data/data source: (where appropriate) N/A

Action: Monica Hamlin will send out a survey to all faculty to gather information and then share results and suggestions later in the semester.

ITEM 4. SLS 1201

Discussion: Pamela Mason-Egan proposed creating a new course to enable students to further develop the skills gained in SLS 1501. Many schools around the state offer such a course. Pam shared the course description used at another institution with faculty via email on January 5. (See below).

The cluster unanimously agreed to allow Pam to move forward with the curriculum proposal process.

Data/data source: (where appropriate) - Course description from Valencia College
<http://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/coursedescriptions/coursesoffered/sls/>

Students will learn and apply proven strategies to become active, responsible and successful learners. Major topics include personal self-responsibility, self-motivation, self-management, self-awareness, interdependence, emotional intelligence, life-long learning, and self-esteem.

Action: Pamela Mason- Egan will keep the cluster informed regarding the curriculum development process.

ITEM 5. Hybrids

Discussion: Due to lack of time at today's meeting, the cluster agreed to share "best practices" via email.

Data/data source: (where appropriate) N/A

Action: Faculty who teach hybrid courses should send Sophia Munro any ideas regarding content, assignments, methodology, etc. to enhance our hybrid course offerings.

Attendance:

Chuck Zettler, Dean of Enrollment Management
Theresa Cusimano, First Year Experience Manager
Freddie Bennett
Susan Bierster, Cluster Liaison
Mark Davis
Sandra Demauro
Monica Hamlin
Mark Hendrix
Joyce Kevetos
Manny Larenas
Pamela Mason-Egan
Jyrece McClendon
Sophia Munro, Cluster Chair
Magdala Ray
Vanger Simmons
Jeannette Sullivan

Absent:

Karline Prophete

Submitted by:

Sophia Munro, Scribe

cc. Minutes Distribution List