

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE/GEOGRAPHY CLUSTER
October 13, 2015
1:30pm to 3:30pm
Lake Worth Campus

The Political Science/Geography Cluster met with the full Social Sciences Cluster before separating.

ITEM 1. What can faculty do to support the four Performance Funding measures (Job Placement/Continuing Education, Completion to 3-4 years, Retention, and Entry Level Wages)?

Discussion: Cluster members agreed that there are a number of ways to support the four Performance Funding measures, though some areas may prove to be more challenging than others, particularly when it comes to influence over entry-level wages.

For job placement and continuing education, it is important to continue to remind students of the value of education, to encourage them to finish their degree and to consider pursuing advanced degrees as well. In class, professors will continue emphasize the practical aspects of their disciplines, the ways in which students can make information learned in class relevant to and real-world applicable to their lives, including their jobs, careers and future educational pursuits. Professors will continue to ensure that students meet the established course learning objectives, which are designed to help make them more successful both in furthering their education and with their skills in the workplace. The cluster will continue to promote service learning, civic engagement and involvement in the community.

For completion, students should take better advantage of the advisement opportunities available to them from both the academic and student services sides. Cluster members have found that sometimes students repeat classes unnecessarily, particularly in the general ed., and with more efficient course scheduling term to term, they could be better equipped for faster completion rates. For the Political Science/Geography area, it is particularly important to offer the general education classes on various days and times and in varied formats (such as component, hybrid and pure Internet) to accommodate busy schedules and to enable students to make a class schedule that works with their other life obligations.

For retention, faculty will encourage students to use the many college resources that are available to them, and they maintain an open-door policy for students to come to them for support in this area. In the Political Science, American Government and Geography classes, faculty have adapted to different learning styles, and going beyond the traditional classroom, emphasize a more engaging environment and different assessment measures that result in better student success in the classroom. Faculty will continue to pursue new and innovative ways to deliver the course material, such as the recent move to an

interactive, electronic textbook in POS1041 (Introduction to American Government), and to provide different ways for students successfully to meet the course learning objectives.

For entry level wages, the most challenging of the measures, students would benefit most from internship opportunities (paid or unpaid) that could help them build their resumes for their entry into the job market. Faculty sometimes receive notices of internships that are available in the community (such as in a state legislator's office) and have traditionally passed this information on to their students. Cluster members will continue to do so and can also encourage students to pursue these opportunities on their own, using college resources where applicable.

Data/data source: None.

Action: Cluster members unanimously agreed to continue to support the four Performance Funding measures.

ITEM 2. Review Cluster Minutes Guidelines -

<http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/academicservices/Documents/sectiong.pdf>

- A. Minutes should be prepared and distributed no more than one week after a cluster meeting is held.**
- B. Minutes should be prepared using the standard minutes template located at <http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/academicservices/documents/TemplateClusterMinutes.doc>. Minutes must address any identified district issues set forth by the VPAA.**
- C. Any cluster recommendations should be in writing and sent to the VPAA in addition to being in the cluster minutes.**
- D. Any curriculum changes (new courses, revised courses, etc.) must be initiated through the established curriculum process (<http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/curriculum-development>).**

Discussion: Cluster members reviewed the minutes guidelines as instructed, noting that they have traditionally been consistent in meeting them.

Data/data source: Cluster Minutes Guidelines in *Academic Management Manual*, Palm Beach State website

Action: The cluster unanimously agreed to continue to meet the proscribed guidelines for minutes.

ITEM 3. Textbooks for Spring 2016

Discussion: Cluster members agreed that there would be no textbook changes for the Spring 2016 term, but they are awaiting possible changes for POS1001 (Introduction to Political Science) in the summer term, as it is anticipated that the current (Roskin, et al) textbook will be available then in the REVEL interactive, e-book format

Data/data source: None.

Action: None

OTHER. None.

Attendance:

Victor Aikhionbare

Andrew Luma

Shari MacLachlan

Terry Randolph

Submitted by:

Shari L. MacLachlan, Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List