



## **PSYCHOLOGY CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES**

**October 13<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**1:00 PM**

**Social Science SS 116**

---

### **ITEM 1 Psychology Excellence Award from Cengage**

#### **Discussion:**

Reminded the cluster members about the Cengage Program Excellence Award that was given to the Psychology Department for the innovative use of technology in the Psychology classes at PBSC for all campuses. Our college competed with all the colleges in the United States and was the one selected to receive the award. Cengage representatives are planning to inform the college administrators about it.

### **ITEM 2 Tenure of Cluster Chairs**

#### **Discussion:**

First, the co-cluster chairs reported that they checked with Associate Dean Susan Caldwell and she stated after consulting with administration, that there is no stated or formal rule/guideline regarding tenure time of cluster chairs. Also informed the cluster members that according to Lois Pasapane and Kathleen Bey, long time and now retired psychology faculty members, that the 3 year tenure of psychology cluster chairs was informally established and maintained. The 3 year tenure has been in place for at least the last 15 years or more. The rationale behind this tenure time was twofold, the lack of faculty interest to assume the position, and desire for process continuity. Some additional discussion ensued about the history of cluster chairs and the need for further talks regarding this issue in the future. Dr. Blair mentioned that he liked the model of having co-cluster chairs and explained the reasons for why it seemed effective. Other members expressed their opinions such as Professor Gisela Diaz who expressed that she also liked the co-cluster chair model but would prefer cluster members to have a choice. Dr. Mike Miles asked about having a cluster vote regarding co-cluster chair being the model moving forward. Cluster members also recognized if for any reason they wanted to change this model they would have to vote again in the future.

**Action:** The cluster agreed to vote and the results were 9 in favor of adopting the model and 1 against.

### **ITEM 3 Faculty Support for Performance-Based Funding**

**Discussion:** Co-cluster chairs introduced the topic of ways that faculty could support Performance-Based Funding. Cluster members agreed that the areas of student completion in 3-4 years and retention would be the areas that faculty could have an impact. The following list are the ideas that cluster members generated:

1. Reduce the amount of students in each class to 25/26 students instead of 36. Smaller classes could provide an opportunity for professors to have a more personal relationship with students, which will encourage informal mentorship relationships, and exploration of plans for a student's future.
2. Check the changes that the University of Georgia has implemented to reduce class size in order to increase student retention and consider to do the same in this college.
3. If classes are smaller, it would be very important to hire more full time faculty to teach any added sections.
4. Hire more Academic Advisors
5. Recalibrate Academic Advisor training. Create partnerships between certain academic advisors and professors to help students get the needed credit hours/classes, while putting in place an academic trajectory that is academically efficient and effective.
6. Allow for professors who volunteer, to provide academic advisement for identified students and pay them as if they were teaching an extra class or give them a release from teaching a class.
7. Put in place a Psychology track for students.
8. Develop a wheel model used by some programs like Human Services, to help students develop a schedule to follow from the beginning of their education. In that way they would be aware of the classes they need to take every semester. Hopefully, this could help them complete their identified degrees or certificates in a timely manner. Perhaps develop a 2-3 year plan for students.
9. Develop agreements with universities (e.g., psychology programs) such as FAU to insure which transferrable courses they will accept from PBSC.
10. Increase the funding to the Supplemental Instruction Program, so that additional professors across all campuses would be able to use these services to help students improve their grades, successfully pass the classes and ultimately graduate in a timely manner.
11. Continue to make a priority the tenure track for faculty in supporting professors to continue offering a high level of education which often results in student success.
12. Re-install prep-courses.
13. Encourage corporate industries to open offices in economically deprived areas such as Belle Glade.
14. Re-evaluate the number of credit hours needed in some certificate and/or degree programs

**OTHER.**

The cluster meeting adjourned and the chair of the Human Services Program Professor Suzie Duff asked Lake Worth Psychology and Human Service faculty members to meet. They agreed to do so

**Attendance:** Dr. Maria Francisca Arbona, Dr. Andrew Blair, Professor Gisela Diaz, Dr. Ted Cascio, Dr. Mia Ocean, Professor Suzie Duff, Professor George Stoupas, Dr. Roxanna Anderson, Dr. Mike Miles, Dr. Esther Berry

**Submitted by:** Dr. Maria Francisca Arbona and Dr. Andrew Blair

---

c. Minutes Distribution List