

**CLUSTER AGENDA**  
**October 15, 2014**  
**1:30 pm – 3:20 pm**  
**Lake Worth Campus**

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**ITEM 1. Welcome**

Discussion: Cluster was welcomed by Chair Victor Gent. Cluster offers its well wishes to cluster member Dave Childers for a speedy recovery from his illness.

Data/data source: n/a

Action: n/a

**ITEM 2. Approval of minutes from August 20, 2014 meeting.**

Discussion: n/a

Data/data source: 8/20/2014 Minutes

Action: Steve Frishman moved to accept 8/20/2014 minutes. Lori Crane seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

**ITEM 3. General Education Assessment**

Discussion: Speech cluster had decided previously to administer general education assessment tool on communication anxiety learning outcome two-three times per term, with plans on entering an average at the semester's conclusion. However, it has come to our attention that we will not be able to enter decimals, and Helen Shub indicated in a conversation with a cluster member that it might be best to administer only once, at the end of the term. This should reflect the highest score for a student on this outcome. Department chairs will need to notify adjuncts of this change. In addition, Victor Gent informed cluster he had expressed concerns as to when this information had to be entered, as some instructors will be administering this assessment on the last day of class; Helen Shub indicated that there will be an allowance of a couple of weeks into the next term to enter that information. Cluster asked for clarification as to a specific deadline if it is in the new term. Finally, there is a question if the final overall scores will include decimals, since individual student scores cannot. Cluster feels it is important to have decimals in the final tallies, so that we can see any small gains or losses over time as we continue to refine our assessment.

Data/data source: n/a

Action: Department chairs on each campus will notify adjuncts to only administer the assessment once, toward the end of the term. Cluster Chair will contact Helen Shub to ask for clarification on specific deadline date for entering information. Cluster Chair will also ask if final overall averages will be calculated to include decimals for more accurate tracking.

#### **ITEM 4. Gordon Rule**

Discussion: The cluster has significant concerns over the draft copy of the “Gordon Rule” as presented in morning workshops at Development Day. The cluster worked cooperatively to draft a formal position statement on this draft copy, using the actual language of Florida Administrative Rule 6A-10.030 as a starting point.

Data/data source: (1) Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rule 6A-10.030 (2) Draft copy of “Implementation of Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rule 6A-10.030 (‘Gordon Rule’) Writing Requirements”

Action: The Speech Cluster continues to support the spirit and intent of the “Gordon Rule” as articulated in Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rule 6A-10.030. However, the language of the draft proposal entitled “Implementation of Florida State Board of Education Administrative Rule 6A-10.030 (‘Gordon Rule’) Writing Requirements” undermines the instructor’s right and responsibility to exercise academic freedom in the evaluation of students. Furthermore, the methodology and application of assessment techniques as outlined in the current draft document overreaches and must be omitted.

Marcie Pachter will communicate this position to the General Education Committee at its next meeting.

#### **ITEM 4. Speech Contest**

Discussion: The cluster has been asked to reinstate the annual speech contest, with a critical thinking component that would come out of a joint effort with the QEP Program. The speech cluster welcomes the opportunity to both bring back a successful event and to work across departments to promote the importance of public speaking skills and critical thinking skills. We look forward to forging a relationship with the QEP Program and being an integral part of the overall QEP Second Annual Contest to Promote Critical Thinking. Some concerns were raised about appropriate recognition of the cluster’s role in the contest being given, as it will be a speech cluster event, not a QEP event. Top speaker prizes will be awarded, and the QEP Program will donate money toward a special recognition award for outstanding critical thinking by a student speaker.

Data/data source: Tentative Contest Guidelines from the QEP Manager

Action: Lori Crane moved that the speech cluster accept “Option 1” on the “Tentative Contest Entry Dates and Deadlines,” which reads “Speech department to determine all dates and judging parameters with critical thinking integrated.” However, motion included a stipulation that when winners are announced that speech cluster develop and approve such announcement prior to distribution to greater community. Lori Crane also moved that Diane Bifano be one of the judges for the speech contest. Megan Tomei seconded both motions. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Marcie Pachter will contact Cengage to discuss sponsorship; develop a budget and judging form based on prior contests; and e-mail cluster about possible contest dates.

Lori Crane will contact Diane Bifano about judging the contest.

Speech cluster will review budget and judging criteria at the January cluster meeting.

**OTHER.** Steve Frishman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Kim Kamuca seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 pm.

**Attendance:**

**Victor Gent (Chair)**

**Marcie Pachter (Scribe),**

**Lori Crane,**

**Leonie Escoffery,**

**Steve Frishman,**

**Michelle Biferie,**

**Megan Tomei,**

**Kim Kamuca**

**Guests: Sheila Scott-Lubin, Dr. Mark Kattoura**

**Absent: David Childers, Sharon**

**Martin, David Rossman**

Submitted by:

Marcie Pachter, Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List