



June 3, 2009

Senate Room, The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel

10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Attended: Sharon Christ (Chair) , William Curley, Roger Egolf, Robert Farrell, Sandra Gleason, Galen Grimes, Anna Griswold, R. Keith Hillkirk, Martha Jordan, Leslie Laing, Michael Mahlik, Joann Olson, Amy Pancoast, Joel Rodney, Karen Schultz, Gale Siegel, Ted Timmerman, Judy Wills (Recorder)

Guests: Melissa Kunes, Robert Pangborn, John Romano, Craig Weidemann

Unable to attend: Bidy Brooks, Vicki Carter, Theodora Jankowski, Linda Higginson

- 1) Sharon Christ called the meeting to order.

Announcements:

- A. Sharon Christ, Martha Jordan and Karen Schultz met with Ron Rash, Dawn Boyer, Robert Pangborn and John Romano on April 27 regarding e-Petition. D. Boyer created a group which will convene in June to further discuss the issue and Linda Higginson will represent the Commission as part of the group.
- B. Anna Griswold gave summary of her recent testimony regarding direct lending before a House Committee in Washington, DC. A panel including the Deputy Undersecretary of Education, the Chancellor of the University of California system, the CEO of Sallie Mae, and an economist from Ohio State University presented information on direct lending as a result of President Obama's ruling to put all schools into the program. Anna's testimony described Penn State's experience in transitioning to direct lending to address fears that other schools may have about the difficulty of its use. Link to her testimony is <http://live.psu.edu/youtube/IIA5Jr2TZ-c>
- C. Ted Timmerman gave an update on the new GI bill which will be effective on August 1, specifically the Yellow Ribbon Program which offers tuition waiver for out-of-state students and graduate programs. The proposed legislation allows qualifying veterans to pass unused educational benefits to their children and spouse if elected while on active duty and if certain stipulations are met. Any marketing of the program will occur after official approval. Questions can be directed to the Veterans' Affairs office and training is available.

D. Bill Curley gave an update on changes to 'Go 60.' John Romano charged a group including Sharon Christ and Bill Curley with suggesting ways to make implementation of 'Go 60' consistent across campuses. Initial recommendations are being refined to present at the next round of meetings. The suggestions include requiring all undergraduate campuses and delivery systems to be part of the program, allowing campuses to choose the courses included, determining whether courses taken under the program can apply to degrees and certificates, and having students pay the IT and facilities fee while allowing campuses the ability to waive the activity fee.

2) Meeting minutes from April 15, 2009, were approved by voice vote.

3) Committee reports

a) **Adult Enrollment Coordinator**-Biddy Brooks surveyed the AECs on how FTCAP is handled for adults on each campus and comments are in process.

b) **Faculty Engagement**-Questionnaire is with Sandy Gleason for final edit. Student handbook appendix is in process. Final versions of the faculty and student handbook appendices will appear at least on the Commission's web site. Hard copies of the student appendix may also be distributed to DAAs to share as a resource.

c) **Hendrick Conference Planning**-The May 18 conference had 188 attendees, each received pad folio with logo and packet of conference materials. Student panelists also received book bags from last year's conference, T-shirts from Adult Learner Programs, and \$50 Barnes and Noble gift cards donated by the Penn State Bookstore on Campus. Technical problems with the speakers at the conference center interfered with the debut of the Second Life video. Leslie Laing will send Commission members the link to the video on 'Penn State You Tube.' Next year's conference date is May 10, 2010.

d) **Incentive Grants and Awards**-Seven of eight Incentive Grants proposals were funded. Requested monies were over \$12,000 and awarded funds were \$8,000. The AEC Committee reviewed the proposals and recommended award amounts. The AEC Committee also reviewed the nominations and letters of support for the annual awards and selected Dr. Jennifer Parker Talwar from Lehigh Valley as the winner of the Superior Service to Adult Learners award. Dr. Talwar received a plaque at the May 18 Hendrick conference.

e) **Nominating** –Sandy Gleason forwarded the list of recommended names to Keith Hillkirk along with a list of recommended faculty members from prior years.

After Dr. Hillkirk's review of the list and gauging interest of recommended members, invitations will go out to new potential members in July.

- 4) Sharing of Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners conference sessions- Commission members discussed information from Hendrick sessions attended as possible topics for the upcoming year. Topics discussed included the panel discussion sponsored by the Faculty Engagement Committee and the suggestion to have a larger number of faculty from University Park involved with the Commission and its committees. Also discussed was the session on first-generation, low-income students and ways to parse out unique attributes of adult learners. The session with students of the OLEAD program was discussed and the participating students were excited about the program. Suggestion was made to involve more innovative programs for engaging adult learners as part of the Hendrick conference. Sharon Christ suggested theme for next year's conference to be 'Innovative Ways of Engaging Adult Students'. Building on that theme, suggestion was made to explore two tracts: one for faculty and staff, and one for adult students. Suggestion was also made to work with AECs to increase participation from campuses.
- 5) Year in retrospect-Sharon gave summary of the Commissions activity for 2008-09
 - September-Members got familiarized with the Commission and chose agenda items for the year
 - October-History of the AEC and summary of the AEC role
 - November-Financial Aid for adult learners, Damon Sims discussed barriers to success for adult learners
 - December-Barriers for adult learners, blended learning
 - February-Adult learner panelists discussed concerns, challenges and successes.
 - March-Prior learning assessment and transfer credits
 - April-Scholarships available to adult learners, FTCAP
 - May-Hendrick conference
 - June-Recap and begin planning for next year.
- 6) Lunch with sponsors-Committee chairs gave brief summaries of their work for the year to the sponsors. A member of each committee was seated at each of the lunch tables for discussion and suggestions about what sponsors would like to see the Commission work on. Sharon also thanked outgoing members for their support and presented each with a certificate. Outgoing members include Bidy Brooks, Vicki Carter, Bill Curley, Roger Egolf, Sandy Gleason, Joann Olson, Gale Siegel, and Ted Timmerman.
- 7) The meeting was adjourned at 1:37.

The schedule for next year's meetings will be sent over the summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Wills