



COMMISSION FOR ADULT LEARNERS

November 11, 2009

324 Outreach Building,

University Park

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Minutes-Draft

Attended: Keith Hillkirk, Martha Jordan, Karin Foley, Anna Griswold, Sharon Christ, Amy Pancoast, Karen Schultz, Michael Mahalik, Theodora Jankowski, Bob Farrell, Galen Grimes, Jacob Moore, Laura Swinyer, Joann Olson, , Leslie Laing, Spencer Lewis, Jane Owens (by phone), Joel Rodney (by phone), Judy Wills (note taker)

Guests: Renee Sefton, Sharon Nelson, Angela Wenttang, Nicole Stocks

Unable to attend: Lori Bechtel-Wherry, Linda Higginson

- 1) Keith Hillkirk called the meeting to order.
 - a) Michael Mahalik reviewed the proposed updates to the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules that he and Martha Jordan have worked on. Members received an electronic copy of the revisions, with changes noted prior to the meeting.

Judy Wills will send an email to all members requesting a response with vote of whether to accept the changes. Voting results will be announced at the next meeting.

- 2) October 14, 2009 meeting minutes were approved as submitted by voice vote.
- 3) Committee Reports
 - a) Faculty Engagement—Did not meet this month
 - b) Hendrick conference planning-Attached
 - c) PLA-Attached.
- 4) Other items
 - a) Old Business-Work on the e-Petition is moving forward.
 - b) New Business-Martha Jordan reported that a pilot program will be tested during the Spring semester whereby employees of certain employers in the pilot will be offer deferred payment option for eligible tuition reimbursement. This is for UP only as many campuses already provide this service.
- 5) Student Panel-Three adult learners from three campuses (York, University Park, World Campus) and a graduate assistant whose undergraduate degree was earned at another college joined the three student members of the Commission to share their experiences and concerns as adult learners at Penn State and their suggestions for

changes. The discussion was led by Keith Hillkirk and panelists introduced themselves and shared thoughts on the topics below:

Sense of Overall Experience/Application

All panelists had a positive experience with the application process

Prior Learning Assessment

- One student liked the transfer tool available on the website but would have liked further evaluation of what courses would have transferred
- One student who transferred from a community college was frustrated not to know her exact standing before admissions.
- One student who had assembled a portfolio was discouraged from submitting it for review.

Financial Aid

- One student, who had a good experience with her own financial aid, works with adult learner scholarships and sees that frustration of applicants because of confusing qualification requirements.
- One student had a good experience using the GI bill.
- One student had a problem having student loan released to PSU which created problems with her housing/rent falling behind. It took weeks to get the situation resolved. (Anna Griswold asked the student for permission to track the situation to see what can be learned to prevent a similar problem.)
- One student ran into cap amounts and accessed an emergency loan.
- For the student who did her undergraduate work at another school, the GAs distributed information on scholarships prior to the beginning of classes and professors did mass emails of information as well.

FTCAP

- One student, who transferred from a community college out of the area, registered for a tour for transfer students. She reported that the day was not adult-learner friendly.
- One student felt that FTCAP was awkward with much discussion geared toward traditional-aged students. (e.g.. Alcohol awareness)
- One student reported that the CE office was quite helpful with orientation
- One student enrolled in the spring when no FTCAP was available

Opinion on Welcome Sessions

- One student would have attended an adult welcome session if advance notice was given to allow her to adjust her work schedule.
- One student would not have attended a welcome session, but would have liked self-guided information on resources available to adult students.

Suggestion on what would be worthwhile to Adult Learners Starting new/ What one thing would each change about Penn State?

Suggestions:

- Make a resource list available, perhaps included in the welcome letter.
- Provide online tutorials
- One student would like to be able to sign up for a course at any Penn State campus to suit her needs/schedule.
- Make Angel easier to use.

- Increase visibility of adult learners to make programs less tailored to traditional-aged students. Too many RI students change the atmosphere; faculty teaches differently to traditional-aged students. This is more problematic at UP than other campuses.
- Make faculty aware that references to “when you grow up, have children, etc,” send subtle message that adult learners attending a traditional university are invisible in the classroom. Also, singling out adults to provide perspective may be embarrassing.

6) Adjourn meeting-The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Wills

Hendrick Conference Planning Committee Meeting
November 4, 2009
Meeting Location: 233 HUB & by phone

Summary of topics discussed and actions taken:

The committee confirmed/completed the following tasks:

- Date/Timing/Place—Conference will be May 10, 2010 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel and theme will be “Innovation 2010: Opportunities for the New Decade”
- Give-away items will be small notebook with attached pen
- Conference schedule will be the same as last year’s
- Guest speakers: Brenda Harms, Stamats (keynote/break-out), Eric Hoover, writer from the Chronicle of Higher Education (facilitate opening student panel), Judy Wertheim, CAEL (PLA break-out),
- Break-outs ideas - involving guest speakers, Incentive Grant recipients, chancellors, World Campus
- Marketing timeline – Save-the-date message going out next week, draft logo was distributed for review
- Evaluations – for overall and sessions will be done through Survey Monkey
- Get into meetings to promote conference – Academic Affairs, CE, DSAs, Chancellors, student panel

Prior learning Assessment Committee Report

Summary of topics discussed and actions items:

Intend to recommend (Fall 2009): Addition of an adult learner link on Penn State home page under Prospective Students to the 'It Shows' page

- enhancements to 'It Show' page with PLA info
- metatags for 'It Shows' and PLA info

Prepare a common PLA awareness message/presentation (Spring 2010) for following groups:

- AEC's (pilot with NE regional meeting?)
- Chancellors (Fall 2010)
- DUS conference (Oct 2010)
- Enrollment Management conference (Sept 2010)
- Faculty Senate (Spring 2011)

Work with NE region campuses and WC on BSB grid of CRX course availability (Spring 2010)

Articulate goals and three-year time line of committee efforts

Items to be placed on the Commission and/or Executive Committee Meeting

Agendas:

Items mentioned below have been addressed at Commission November meeting:

- Recommend team discount for multi office campus representation at Hendricks conference
- Recommend a PLA presentation at each Hendricks conference

The next committee meeting date, time, and location: proposed conference call December 2 at 9am

Submitted by: Jane Owens