



Commission for Adult Learners
September 8, 2010, 10:30 a.m.
Senate Room,
The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel
Minutes-Draft

Attended: Ann Williams, Chair (by Polycom), Jane Ashton, Martha Aynardi, Paul deGategno (by Polycom), Beth Ann Delaney, Gloria Deschler, Armand Dotsey (by Polycom), Anna Griswold, Linda Higginson, Keith Hillkirk, Martha Jordan, Leslie Laing, Gary Lawler, Spencer Lewis, Jane Owens (by Polycom), Amy Pancoast, Karen Sones, Rachel Stover, Debra Straussfogel, Careen Yarnal, and Judy Wills (Note taker)

Unable to attend: Lori Bechtel-Wherry, Karen Pollack

- 1) Keith Hillkirk called the meeting to order.
- 2) Introductions and Announcements
 - a) Members introduced themselves and Graduate Student member Armand Dotsey shared his experience as an undergraduate adult learner.
 - b) Beth Ann Delaney gave an overview of the Northeast Alliance. The role of the Alliance is to build strength among the University's Scranton, Hazelton, Schuylkill, Lehigh Valley and Wilkes-Barre campuses. Committees are forming in an effort to create a hybrid approach including opportunities via Polycom, online learning, and accelerated course offerings, to look at gaps and to clarify procedures.
 - c) Deb Straussfogel shared details of a rebate program as an opportunity to help students with finances. Link to information on the program is available at <http://www.ds.psu.edu/StudentServices/Rebate.htm>. Gary Lawler noted that the Hazelton campus dedicates campus monies to student programs as an investment in providing financial aid. Keith Hillkirk shared that the Schuylkill campus has a 'Thirty-Plus' program that provides funds to adult learners.

- d) Martha Jordan shared that Terrell Jones has provided an EOPC grant in sponsorship of the Commission, with designation that the funds be used to benefit women, minorities, military students, the LGBT community, and first-generation college students. The Incentive Grant proposals will ask campuses to focus funded initiatives on these groups of interest.
 - e) The Faculty Survey will be done as a pilot at the Altoona, Schuylkill and Lehigh Valley Campuses. Then, if needed, revisions will be made before the survey goes University-wide.
- 3) Minutes from June 9, 2010, were approved by voice vote.
- 4) Ann Williams and Martha Jordan summarized Commission goals for 2010-11 based on the Plan to Implement the University Faculty Senate Advisory and Consultative Report, *Recommendations for Enhancing the Educational Experience of Adult Learners*, March 16, 2010. (Attached). The Commission is charged with working on the below recommendations:
- Recommendation 3; Conduct a system-wide audit of the academic colleges and departments to identify those courses eligible for credit by examination (Senate Policy 42-50) and Credit by Portfolio (Senate Policy 42-97) and provide the information to all units that advise/counsel adult learners. The PLA Committee will work on this initiative.
 - Recommendation 4; Expand the network of faculty who work with eligible students through Credit by Examination and/or Credit by Portfolio. The Faculty Engagement Committee will work on this initiative.
 - Recommendation 7; Explore the expansion of already-existing financial aid services available to adult learners. The newly created Financial Aid Task Force will work on this initiative.
- Progress reports are due to Dr. Craig Weidemann by October 3, 2010 and final reports are due to him by January 3, 2011.
- Individuals working on these initiatives will be invited to share their findings at the Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference on May 16, 2011.
- 5) Committees were introduced and the group divided into discussion groups by committee led by the chairs.
- a) Faculty Engagement—Keith Hillkirk

- b) Financial Aid Task Force—Anna Griswold
 - c) Hendrick Conference Planning—Leslie Laing
 - d) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)—Jane Owens
- 6) After breaking for lunch, the groups shared summaries of their discussions.
- 7) The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Wills

Plan to Implement the University Faculty Senate Advisory and Consultative Report, *Recommendations for Enhancing the Educational Experience of Adult Learners*, March 16, 2010

Recommendation	Charge
1. Identify best practices for advising adult learners interested in degree-seeking programs.	Topic to be included in the upcoming ACUE discussions. Early in the fall UGE will distribute an article and compilation of exemplary practices published in a recent NACADA Monograph to all the college and campus associate deans. This will be followed by a specific agenda item for which members of ACUE will be asked to volunteer best practices for adult student advising in their respective units. These will be compiled into a summary document for general distribution to advising centers, faculty orientation sessions and academic programs as appropriate. (Per e-mail from Dr. Pangborn, June 17, 2010)
2. Promote focused degree-completion programs tailored toward the adult learner while maintaining academic standards associated with a Penn State degree.	Dr. Wayne Smutz Associate Vice President, Outreach, and Executive Director of the World Campus
3. Conduct a system-wide audit of the academic colleges and departments to identify those courses eligible for credit by examination (Senate Policy 42-50) and Credit by Portfolio (Senate Policy 42-97) and provide the information to all units that advise/counsel adult learners.	Dr. Ann M. Williams, Chair Penn State Commission for Adult Learners
4. Expand the network of faculty who work with eligible students through Credit by Examination and/or Credit by Portfolio.	Dr. Ann M. Williams, Chair Penn State Commission for Adult Learners
5. Expand alternative course and program delivery methods and scheduling in those academic units where adult learners are concentrated.	Dr. Wayne Smutz Associate Vice President, Outreach, and Executive Director of the World Campus

6. Incentivize the teaching of adult learners to attract faculty to teach hybrid, evening, and non-traditional courses.	Ms Ann Taylor, Chair Faculty Senate Committee on Outreach
7. Explore the expansion of already-existing financial aid services available to adult learners.	Dr. Ann M. Williams, Chair Penn State Commission for Adult Learners
8. Explore expanding the services currently offered to adult learners such as the creation of adult learner lounges with the possibility of subsidized day care.	Contact Ron McHarty, Committee member Faculty Senate Committee on Student Life