



Commission for Adult Learners
March 16, 2011
324 Outreach Building, University Park
10:30 a.m.
Minutes-Draft

Attended: Ann Williams, Chair (by Polycom), Jane Aston (by phone), Martha Aynardi (by phone), Lori Bechtel-Wherry, Gloria Deschler, Anna Griswold, Linda Higginson, Martha Jordan, Leslie Laing, Gary Lawler (by Polycom), Spencer Lewis, Jane Owens, Amy Pancoast, Karen Sones, Rachel Stover, Judy Wills (Recorder)

Guest: Sharon Christ

Unable to attend: Paul deGategno, Beth Ann Delaney, Armand Dotsey, Keith Hillkirk, Karen Pollack, Careen Yarnal

- 1) Ann Williams called the meeting to order.
 - a) Dr. Williams, Lori Bechtel-Wherry, and Gary Lawler summarized impact of last week's state budget proposal on their respective campuses. Overall, the atmosphere has been supportive.
 - b) Dr. Williams received copy of national study of prospective adult students prepared by Stamats and will forward to members. This may be the results Dr. Brenda Harms presented at the 2010 Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference.
 - c) Chair-elect nominations—Linda Higginson announced that Gary Lawler agreed to be on the ballot for 2011-12 Chair Elect and opened the floor for additional nominations. No additional nominees were identified at the meeting. Judy Wills will prepare and email ballots listing Dr. Lawler and space for write-in nominees. Member votes will be tabulated and results shared at the April 13 meeting.
 - d) Martha Jordan proposed tabling discussion regarding 2011 Incentive Grants until the April meeting. The Executive Committee will discuss concerns over the degree to which the proposals received address the diversity focus sought on proposal materials.
 - e) Martha Jordan reported that the University has received \$1 million endowed scholarship for Adult Learners funded through the Osher Foundation. Scholarships will be available to all campuses to adult learners who have had at least a five-year hiatus in their studies. Lynn Melander Moore submitted the proposal.
 - f) Martha Jordan summarized new strengthened language adopted by the Faculty Senate regarding foreign language requirement. Incoming students are either required to have two years' **world** language study prior to attendance or take a language course after enrolling that will not count toward graduation. Amy Pancoast will check to find out if American Sign Language counts.

- 2) Members approved minutes from February 9, 2011, by voice vote.
- 3) Faculty Senate Recommendation updates
 - a) Linda Higginson-Recommendation 1; Identify best practices for advising adult learners interested in degree-seeking programs.
 - a) L. Higginson has been assisting Vice President Pangborn's office with recommendation.
 - b) Survey posing three questions was sent to campus chief academic officer and ACUE and L. Higginson led discussion in December focusing on the questions. Survey and key results were distributed to members.
 - c) The group discussed and shared thoughts.
 - Suggestion made to revise Question 1 to read 'What are five things we're doing well?' or "What are the key issues and what practices are in place to address them?"
 - Martha Jordan, Ann Williams, and Jane Owens are serving on a University task force for Adult Degree Completion which is evaluating programs and state employer needs. Suggestion was made to take the issues identified in the survey to the Task Force.
 - Jane Owens agreed to take survey questions for consideration to the April DCE meeting.
 - The group discussed the pros and cons of designating adult-specific academic advisers.
 - b) Sharon Christ—Recommendation 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.
 - a) S. Christ distributed a summary of available services at campuses.
 - b) The group discussed specifics for their respective campuses.
 - c) Agreement that the services needed were more academic in nature.
- 4) Committee reports
 - a) Faculty Engagement—Keith Hillkirk, Lori Bechtel-Wherry
 - b) Financial Aid Task Force—Anna Griswold
 - The task force will look at the recommendation and look into whether revenue from Outreach could be channeled back as student aid, modeled after the Chancellor's awards with the goal of reducing financial barriers for adult learners.
 - The group will explore ways to raise awareness at outset that aid relates back to academic performance and catch problems before they start. They discussed building collaboration between advising and financial aid from the outset.
 - c) Hendrick Conference Planning—Leslie Laing
 - Registration fee has been set for \$95.00 with additional \$30 fee for walk-ins and \$25 administrative fee for cancellations received after May 2.
 - New registration site is under construction using CVent and anticipated date for registration to open is March 21.

- Commissioners are asked to forward announcement of registration to appropriate list serves.
 - Opening panel will feature panel of experts working on Faculty Senate recommendations. Sharon Christ will participate and moderate.
 - Fifteen breakout sessions are available including return of popular sessions: Chancellor's panel, Incentive Grant panel, Adult learner panel (s). Leslie Laing asked Commissioner's to forward recommendations for the adult learner panel by March 22. Two sessions have been set aside depending on number of recommendations received.
- d) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)—Jane Owens
- Committee discussion considered the relationship and energy around recent University initiatives for Assessment/Outcomes (driven in part by Middle States) and the advancement of credit by exam/portfolio.
 - Members, including Gary Lawler, are exploring the best approach to conduct an audit of Campus/College programs and courses. We are consulting University staff in both Assessment and in the University College.
 - Process has been paced to allow any communication with academic units to be very well considered and substantiated.
 - Committee intends to meet again before the April meeting to proceed with getting the audit underway.
- 5) Updates
- a) Martha Jordan gave an update on University-wide Credit Transfer Evaluation task force. The group had an initial meeting and will be identifying three colleges and a stand-alone to review what web process IST and Health and Human Development have in place and what modifications are necessary for a wider implementation.
- b) The Faculty Senate Committee on Outreach has met around the recommendations. The report will be presented in April. Updates on progress will likely be given next year.
- 6) Ann Williams adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wills