



Commission for Adult Learners
June 8, 2011
324 Outreach Building, University Park
10:30 a.m.
Minutes-Draft

Attended: Ann Williams (Chair), Jane Ashton, Martha Aynardi, Gloria Deschler, Armand Dotsey, Anna Griswold, Linda Higginson, Keith Hillkirk, Martha Jordan, Leslie Laing, Gary Lawler, Jane Owens, Amy Pancoast, Karen Pollack, , Karen Sones, Rachel Stover, Debra Straussfogel, Judy Wills (Minutes)

Guests: Damon Sims, Craig Weidemann

Unable to attend: Lori Bechtel-Wherry, Paul deGategno, Beth Ann Delaney, Spencer Lewis, Jane Owens

1) Ann Williams called the meeting to order

a) Announcements

- Hendrick conference

Williams and recognized Leslie Laing for her three years' service chairing the Hendrick conference planning committee and Martha Jordan presented a gift to Leslie as a token of thanks.

Final conference attendance was 215

Helpful connections were made. Craig Weidemann and Wayne Smutz met with Holly Zanville after the conference to discuss future partnership opportunities with Lumina Foundation.

- Williams extended congratulations to Keith Hillkirk on his new role as Chancellor of Penn State Berks.
- Williams thanked Armand Dotsey for his service as student member. Dotsey will receive his graduate degree in August.

b) The group approved corrected minutes from April 13, 2011, by voice vote. **Rachel Stover will send profile elements from her data reports to campus AECs and copy Chancellors on the message.**

c) Updates

- E-Course Substitution—Martha Jordan

The appointed task force had met with representatives from Liberal Arts, Engineering, and Penn State Harrisburg to discuss how best to implement and was well-received at all sites.

Task force report is in progress for Craig Weidemann, Rob Pangborn, and Madlyn Hanes.

Goal is to implement pilot in fall 2011 and put program into place by spring 2012.

Recommendation for future; Once a course is reviewed under the program, it will be put into transfer articulation system (TAS) at the Undergraduate Admissions Office.

- Adult Degree Completion Task force—Ann Williams and Martha Jordan

Craig Weidemann and Madlyn Hanes charged this group to have programming in place by September. **Dr. Weidemann will remind committee of urgency to meet its intended timeline.**

Prior Learning Assessment component is on hold until specific program(s) are identified.

Tentative programs under discussion are Liberal Arts, Business-Engineering, and Health Policy Administration (HPA). HPA has fewest required adjustments to prepare for a degree completion program.

Challenge is determining what programs are adult-focused, upholds academic integrity, and prepares students for what types of jobs are available at completion.

2) 2010-11 Year-end report – Dr. Williams summarized the Commission’s activities for the year. She thanked members for a productive year and creative meeting discussions. Hard copies of the report were distributed to attendees and full report is available on the Commission’s web site.

a) Dr. Williams recognized out-going members Armand Dotsey, Linda Higginson, Keith Hillkirk, Amy Pancoast, and Careen Yarnal. She welcomed outgoing members who have interest to continue as committee members. Linda Higginson remarked that over her three-year term, the Commission has built momentum and made good progress toward the advancement of the Commission’s mission.

b) Anna Griswold, incoming chair for 2011-12, noted she looks forward to the upcoming year. She plans to build on the important groundwork and continue to raise awareness about issues of importance for adult learners. With national interest now focused on adult learners, she will work with committees to move the Faculty Senate Recommendations toward implementation and make use of Rachel Stover's data reports to identify data-driven initiatives.

c) Response from sponsors

- Dr. Weidemann thanked the Commission for its strategic leadership. He noted that the adult learner is ubiquitous across University priorities and for the first time President Spanier mentioned adults in his state of the University address. Dr. Weidemann encouraged the Commission to call on its sponsors and the Faculty Senate as a leveraged resource to advance initiatives such as the Degree Completion Program.
- Damon Sims noted that the presence of adult learner discussion among Core Council can be attributed in part to the Commission's work. He echoed Weidemann's willingness to have the Commission call upon him to advance initiatives on behalf of adult learners.
- Additionally, Weidemann posed questions to Commission members:

(1) How can Commission sponsors be more supportive?

Act as catalyst to help increase use of credit by exam

Help get faculty survey going to assess needs, identify disconnects, and serve as a vehicle to build visibility among faculty of adult learner issues.

(2) If members could make one change, what would it be?

Organizing and marshalling needs of adult students, e.g. modifying UP Learning Center's hours. Currently the learning center is closed during the summer when tutoring is needed for writing and math. **Anna Griswold suggested discussing this issue with Rob Pangborn.**

Making sure needed services like child care are in place before students' arrival to avoid creating a negative experience. Ann Williams suggested examining related University policies that impact caregivers such as minimizing penalty for weather-related absences interference with daycare of school-age childcare.

(3) In light of UPARCC discussion on mainstreaming, what are the unique services or issues to consider regarding adult learners?

Members pointed out that adult learners are very practical and seek 'one-stop' source of information to assist in making decision and arrangements and a clear map to finishing their degrees.

A need for additional counseling for our veteran student population was discussed. Leslie Laing reminded the group of availability of free webinars around topic of veterans.

3) Transition to 2011-12

a) Final committee reports are attached for 2010-11

- Faculty Engagement (Appendix A)
- Financial Aid Task Force (Appendix B)
- Prior Learning Assessment (Appendix C)
- Hendrick Conference Planning

b) Faculty Survey – Martha Jordan restated that the Commission would like to send the survey University-wide in early Fall 2011 and asked for sponsors' assistance in obtaining approval to use the list of email addresses from the Provost's office. Both sponsors agreed and Damon Sims raised the suggestion of a Student Affairs Pulse survey of adult learners for the coming year.

c) New member recommendations should be forwarded to Martha Jordan and Judy Wills. Ann Williams will also send message to chancellors introducing Anna Griswold and asking for suggested representatives.

4) Ann Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wills (attach committee reports)