



## Commission for Adult Learners

November 9, 2011

324 Outreach Building,

University Park, PA

### Minutes

Attended: Anna Griswold, Chair; Gloria Deschler, Paula Hogard, Martha Jordan, Leslie Laing, Gary Lawler, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Jane Owens, Tara Scales Williams, Renee Scheske, Karen Sones, Rachel Stover, Terrell Jones, Sponsor; Judy Wills, Recorded

Joined by phone: Jane Ashton, Martha Aynardi, Ron McCarty, Paula Pierce, Kevin Snider, Deb Straussfogel, Ann Williams

Unable to attend: Lori Bechtel-Wherry, Paul deGategno, Beth Ann Delaney, Erica Kresovich-Rockey, Spencer Lewis, Karen Pollack, Ken Womack

1) Anna Griswold called meeting to order.

2) Announcements

Griswold welcomed new Faculty Senate Rep, Ron McCarty. McCarty replaces Careen Yarnal as the Commission's 2011-12 Faculty Senate Liaison. He is Vice-Chair of the Senate's Student Life committee. McCarty is a Computer Science instructor at Penn State Erie, Behrend College.

3) Members approved minutes of October 12, 2011, as submitted by voice vote.

4) Faculty Survey preliminary results

a) Martha Jordan provided background on the history of the survey. Work has been in process to develop and launch the survey for four years. IntelliQ (formerly Diagnostics Plus) has been contracted to administer the survey.

- b) Craig Weidemann sent message to all campus chancellors and department deans requesting lists of undergraduate faculty.
- c) Some colleges have policy restricting sharing lists outside of the University and requested a generic link to the survey. Jordan will send link to members to include in reminder messages they may send.
- d) IntelliQ plans to send reminder message to non-responders during week of Thanksgiving.
- e) To date, 286 responses have been received with a confidence level of approximately 95%.

#### 5) Committee reports

- a) Awards—Ann Williams shared that the committee anticipates convening its first meeting in preparation for the Shirley Hendrick awards nomination window opening next month.
- b) Faculty Engagement--Martha Aynardi reported that the committee plans to meet with faculty who engage with adult learners. The results of the pending survey of undergraduate faculty who teach adults will be analyzed for use in providing workshops, perhaps developed by Schreyer. Goal is to roll-out sessions in late 2012. Campus and department email lists were not timely received by the research company causing a delay to the survey's launch.
- c) Hendrick Conference Planning—
  - (1) Judy Wills reported that the committee is working on updating the conference web site in preparation for sending a Date Saver email later this month. Key note speaker ideas received to date are being vetted for suitability, availability, and cost. Paula Hogard suggested Peter Smith, author of Harnessing America's Wasted Talent who recently spoke at the UPCEA Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference regarding how to best serve the population of U.S. adults with some college and no degree.
  - (2) Dr. Jones suggested including a veterans' panel among the offered sessions.
    - i. Martha Aynardi will send Wills contact information from a recent Philadelphia-based speaker who presented on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other psychological issues veterans face.
    - ii. Paul Milone-Nuzzo noted need for ideas and advice on best practices to incorporate PLA to help medics returning to school as possible subject.
    - iii. Members discussed push to market services available and how staff can be prepared to serve increased numbers student veterans returning to the classroom.

d) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)—

- i. Jane Owens reported that Wayne Smutz recently shared with Martha Jordan an email from Provost Erickson relaying interest in Prior Learning Assessment.
- ii. Gary Lawler is looking at which offices at the Commonwealth Campuses have authority to grant credit for prior learning. Campuses do have authority. There is a need to educate faculty and staff University-wide on policy and procedure.
- iii. Last update to the Faculty Handbook was over ten years ago, creating need to update and enhance forms and processes within the handbook. Electronic version is being explored and the committee is looking at what contextual information should be included and where the policy should reside.
- iv. Goal is to get onto agendas at upcoming CAO and Chancellors' meetings and possibly present topic at the 2012 Hendrick conference.
- v. The committee is developing a "Mythbusters" piece and will share when complete.
- vi. Owens is looking at how other schools use PLA and what terminology is used around the topic. She noted other multi-site schools do not always utilize consistently among their whole institution.

6) Updates

- a) Adult Enrollment Coordinator (AEC) meeting summaries—Jordan shared information on the regional meetings held October 17 at Penn State Beaver for campuses in the west and October 18 at Penn State Harrisburg for campuses in the east and University Park.
  - i) All campuses but three were able to send either their AEC or a representative.
  - ii) Rachel Stover shared data reports on enrollment and adult learner profile and surveyed the AECs for what frequency to send the reports.
  - iii) Jordan shared updates on progress of the Faculty Senate Recommendations presented in April 2011.
  - iv) The groups discussed the impact of the World Campus marketing campaign in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas and its impact on campuses. Per attendees' request, a World Campus informational panel is planned for December.
  - v) Campus representatives shared ideas for recruitment and retention and shared programmatic and service needs.

- vi) The groups expressed interest in a statewide meeting held immediately after the 2012 Hendrick conference.
- b) Future meeting topics—Griswold shared topics planned by the Executive Committee and invited members to suggest additional topics.
  - December 2011—Trish Evanitsky, IntelliQ Research (formerly Diagnostics Plus); will share results and preliminary analysis of the Faculty Survey results.
  - January 2012—No meeting
  - February 2012—Wayne Smutz and Mikund Kulkarni will provide and update on the Adult Degree Completion Task Force. Craig Weidemann will attend.
  - March 2012—Ann Griswold will give a Student Aid update.
  - April 2012—Leslie Laing will give a Survey Task Force update.
  - May 2012—No meeting, Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference will be held May 14, 2012.
  - June 2012—Year-end report out and lunch with sponsors.
- b) Additional suggestions
  - Lawler suggested more in depth discussion on Credit by Exam (CrX) than is typically allotted during committee reports.
  - Milone-Nuzzo suggested more information on primer being developed by the Faculty Engagement committee.
  - Terrell Jones suggested looking at multi-generational populations in the classroom. Griswold summarized discussion around the adult learner definition from last month's meeting.
  - Suggestion was made to share information on Video Learning Network (VLN). Paula Hogard will check with Rose Picconi on whether data is available on whether the VLN is supporting adult learner needs.

## 7) New business

- a) Revisions and vote on Commission Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules—In the interest of time, this topic will move to the December agenda. Griswold shared that the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules is periodically reviewed. The Executive Committee reviewed the document in September. Wills will send proposed revisions before the next meeting and questions will be fielded and vote taken during the meeting.
- b) Adult Learner Survey task force

- Leslie Laing is chairing the task force. The task force has received its charge and Laing is developing membership and strategy. Laing invited interested members to participate on the task force.
- The intent will be to share information largely. Survey will be of adult learner populations. Hogard will send information to Laing on the Adult Learner Focused Inventory (ALFI) assessment done through CAEL. Tara Scales Williams asked if the task force looked at the SARA Assessment, sharing that she sits on its Board if Laing needs input from that office.
- Paula Milone-Nuzzo asked if results of the data collected will be shared with the Academic Leadership Council (ALC). Jordan will ask Craig Weidemann to share with the ALC.
- The task force will look at past surveys to use results as a starting point.

8) Griswold adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.