



Commission for Adult Learners

June 13, 2012

Senate Room, The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel,
University Park

10:30 a.m.

Sponsors joining at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes-Draft

Attended: Anna Griswold, Chair; Rachel (Stover) Heverly, Paula Hogard, Martha Jordan, Erica Kresovich-Rockey, Leslie Laing, Spencer Lewis, Jane Owens, Paula Pierce, Pat Shope, Karen Sones, and Judy Wills (Recorder)

Guests: Mary Beth Crowe, Amy Dietz, Karen Duncan, Madlyn Hanes, Terrell Jones, and Craig Weidemann

Unable to attend: Jane Ashton, Martha Aynardi, Lori Bechtel-Wherry, Paul deGategno, Gloria Deshler, Gary Lawler, Ron McCarty, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Karen Pollack, Tara Scales Williams, Renee (Scheske) Hoover, Kevin Snider, Ann Williams, and Ken Womack

- 1) Anna Griswold called the meeting to order.
 - a) Announcements
 - i) Griswold welcomed guests to the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.
 - ii) The group offered feedback on the April 11, 2012, meeting at Penn State Hazleton. Those who had attended had positive comments including the value of getting campus perspective citing the high percentage of adults at campuses and opportunity to hear from additional staff at the campus location. Suggestion was raised to involve adult students as part of any future campus meetings.
 - iii) Leslie Laing reported that the September 15 football game will be part of 'Military Appreciation Day' activities. Spencer Lewis will send Laing information on Outreach tailgate for that game.
 - iv) Griswold recognized outgoing members who were present, thanked them for their time and commitment to the Commission during their terms of service and invited those with continued

availability to continue participation on committees as able: Erica Kresovich-Rockey, Spencer Lewis, Jane Owens. Members who were unable to attend and finishing their terms of service include Lori Bechtel-Wherry, Ron McCarty, and Ann Williams. Renee (Scheske) Hoover will step off next year's Commission due to change in position, and Beth Ann Delaney and Deb Straussfogel stepped off during the year due to changes in their availability to attend. Griswold presented Jane Owens with a miniature lion statue as a token of appreciation for pioneering the Prior Learning Assessment Initiative.

- v) Paula Pierce recognized Amy Dietz as 2012 recipient of the Commission's Superior Service to Adult Learners Award. Dietz was traveling during the Hendrick conference and Avis Kunz accepted her plaque at the conference. Dietz gave brief remarks on her path as an adult student through her work with adult learners as a World Campus instructor. She is a strong proponent of PLA. Dietz tried to give adults a sense of connectedness using social media and shared a student story of how her efforts reached a military distance learner in Seattle.
 - vi) Spencer Lewis announced a recent estate gift targeted to adult learners. Funds are available based on county of residence in PA and donors have special interest in female heads of household. Press release will be forthcoming.
 - b) Approval of minutes from April 11, 2012
- 2) Adult Learner Data—Rachel Heverly (Stover)
- a) Rachel Heverly shared the 2011-12 Undergraduate Student Profile as compiled by Outreach Educational and Institutional Analytics and distributed copies to members. Data is compiled by unduplicated headcount for budget academic year to capture all start dates. Wills will post to Commission's web site.
 - a) Dr. Hanes inquired how 'hybrid' is defined for purposes of the report. Not all units or campuses are defining consistently. Follow-up discussion will occur at the chairs' meeting with sponsors this summer. Hanes also reported new census data for Commonwealth residents ages 24-44 who have some college credits but no degree yet will be available from the census center later in June to look at as a pool of prospective students. Hanes can make the report available upon receipt. Hanes shared that OPIA gathers profile

information on progress toward degree. Heverly will follow-up with Dr. Hanes to get information.

The group took a break for lunch.

- 3) Griswold proposed revisions to Incentive Grant program
 - a) She summarized the programs original intent and goals to provide seed money for significant initiatives to increase adult learner recruitment and retention and that numbers and quality of proposed programs has decreased in recent years. The Commission suspended the program for 2012-13 to evaluate how to restructure and define measurable results. The proposal recommends higher values per award, promoting collaboration between and among campuses, requiring measurable benefits, and outcomes linked to IntelliQ survey findings and Core Council recommendations. Additionally, proposal to piggyback onto regional cluster meetings to build awareness of the program.
 - b) Response from sponsors-- Sponsors further recommended focusing on recruitment, retention, and graduation and allowing for multi-year initiatives to be considered.
- 4) Lunch
- 5) 2011-12 Year-end report – Anna Griswold and Committee Chairs shared summaries of progress for the year. Judy Wills will post Griswold’s report on the Commission’s web site.
 - a) Faculty Engagement—Survey of faculty about work with adult students was completed in fall 2011.
 - b) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)—Highlights included Gary Lawler’s work to convert the current paper form into electronic format to streamline existing procedure and hiring Pat Shope as designated PLA Coordinator for the University.
 - c) Hendrick Conference Planning—The conference had record number of attendees representing all campuses and Penn College of Technology and featured keynote speaker Anya Kamenetz whose topic was ‘DIY U and the Coming Transformation of Higher Education’ which touched on non-traditional ways to serve adult students. Shirley Hendrick’s son Randy gave a testimonial to his mother’s work. Next year’s conference will be hosted at Penn State Harrisburg.
 - d) Awards—The committee reviewed nomination packets and selected Dr. R Keith Hillkirk as the 2012 Shirley Hendrick Award Recipient

- and Amy Dietz as the 2012 Superior Service to Adult Learners Award Recipient.
- e) Task force on Adult Learner Surveys—Leslie Laing formed a group to look at the various surveys pertinent to adults and concluded that no one survey can encompass all aspects. Results of the group’s review appear on the Commission’s web site under ‘Resources.’
- 6) Transition to 2012-13:
- a) The Commission will strive to be a repository and coordinating body of all adult learner-focused initiatives and will continue toward that end under the leadership of Dr. Gary Lawler.
 - b) Members should forward recommendation of new members to Judy Wills.
 - c) Jordan thanked Griswold for her leadership during 2011-12 and presented her with a signed copy of Anya Kamenetz’ ‘Generation Debt,’ in which interview with Griswold is cited.
- 7) PLA Update-(Handout)
- a) Pat Shope reported on approach of PLA within and outside of Penn State
 - i) What does PLA mean?
 - ii) How do we operationally award?
 - iii) Progress and outcome of meetings with PLA champions across the University
 - iv) Benchmarking other Universities
 - v) Steps to assure quality is maintained
 - vi) PLA initiative which University of Wisconsin recently received Lumina funding
 - b) Shope reported 496 PLA credits awarded in 2012. Goal is to award to every eligible student
 - c) Challenges lie in building awareness. Plans are in progress to build website and develop collateral about PLA availability
 - d) The group discussed portfolio assessment as means of evaluating Prior Learning and whether models are available.
 - e) Suggestion was raised to develop and pilot at Commonwealth Campuses first.
- 8) Griswold adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Wills