



Commission for Adult Learners  
October 17, 2012  
324 Outreach Building, Innovation Park  
10:30 a.m. - Noon  
Minutes

Attended: Gary Lawler, Chair; Diane Chamberlin, Gloria Deschler, Sueann Doran, Arthur Durham, Anna Griswold, Rachel Heverly, Paula Hogard, Durell Johnston, Martha Jordan, Apryl Kadish, Leslie Laing, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Pat Shope, Karen Sones, Ken Thigpen, and Judy Wills (Recorder)

By Phone: Jane Ashton, Martha Aynardi, Bert McBrayer, Paula Pierce, and Kevin Snider

Unable to attend: Karen Pollack, Sherry Robinson, Tara Scales Williams, Maria Schmidt, and Ken Womack

- 1) Call to Order Announcements-- Gary Lawler, Chair
  - a) The group approved minutes of September 19, 2012 by voice vote.
  - b) Announcement-Dr. Francis Achampong will delay his first year of membership to begin in 2013 due to multiple calendar conflicts.
  - c) Judy Wills noted that the required two-thirds vote Ballot Results for Update to Commission's purpose under Constitution, Article 1, to add an additional bullet point under 'The charge to the Commission is to' which reads 'serve as a repository and facilitating body for all adult learner-focused initiatives University-wide.' Wills will update the web site. Lawler will send word of the update to sponsors.
- 2) Re-enrollment exception to all Penn State programs, Karen Schultz, University Registrar
  - a) Shultz noted that currently as an exception under [University Faculty Senate Policy 58-00, Re-enrollment as a Degree Candidate](#), if an adult learner stops out and returns within three years, certain programs do not require the student to re-enroll.
  - b) The programs are listed on the Registrar's web site and currently, the College of Liberal Arts wants to add programs to the list.

- c) Shultz discussed whether the University should flip and have the default be to only list programs that do not allow rather than those which allow the re-enrollment exception. Such a change would impact process not procedure but would need to go through ACUE.
  - d) Schultz had not yet consulted colleges on the idea. Karen Sones, member and Lead Counselor/Liberal Arts Undergraduate Studies Department, agreed that the idea was sound.
  - e) Kevin Snider suggested and Durell Johnson agreed that taking the matter to the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education before ACUE makes sense.
  - f) The group discussed possible next steps and the Executive Committee will discuss how to proceed.
- 3) Philadelphia adult learner recruitment initiatives (Attachment 1)
- a) Information is available at <http://equity.psu.edu/eocphila/services->
    - i) Terrell Jones introduced guest presenters from the Philadelphia EOC Office Eduardo Juarez, Oscar Almodovar and shared background on the office.
    - ii) The EOC is federally funded and serves first generation and low income population through programs such as Upward Bound, the McNair Program and the TRIO program.
    - iii) Juarez is Director and Almodovar is Assistant Director of the TRIO program, which focuses on getting people back to school.
    - iv) Though not Penn State-specific, the office has connections to the Undergraduate Admissions Office in downtown Philadelphia.
    - v) The program is based on defining community, finding a site and resources and maintaining an ongoing inventory of changes in the community and available programs, using referrals to social services as part an overall approach to increase success. This includes referrals to financial literacy programs.
    - vi) The 'Philadelphia Goes to College' program has a link to the EOC and other programs.
    - vii) Scholarships are not part of funding, but the office will help applicants search for available funds.
    - viii) Lawler asked what lessons can be shared for recruiting adult learners.
      - (1) Juarez suggested having recruiters at agencies like Career Links, possibly conducting scheduled programs.
      - (2) Juarez stressed importance of being where prospects are, for instance, festivals and street fairs.
    - ix) Anna Griswold will send Juarez and Almodovar information on targeted resources available through College Board.
  - b) Graduate Philadelphia (Attachement 2)
    - i) James Guyton, Admission Counselor for World Campus and CEUP and Graduate Philadelphia Liaison, explained that the relationship with World

Campus is new, but with the University is not. Penn State Abington originally joined this joint initiative with affiliates in government and business in 2005. Information is available at [www.graduatephiladelphia.org](http://www.graduatephiladelphia.org) and <http://www.graduatephiladelphia.org/who-we-are>.

- ii) The program has counterparts in Memphis and Chicago, and was started by the mayor to address the city's 45% dropout rate and 25% poverty level. Philadelphia ranks 92<sup>nd</sup> among US cities for residents holding degrees.
  - iii) Guyton and George Trevino, from World Campus Advising and Learner Success regularly visit the center to provide information on the World Campus or refer to commonwealth campuses as appropriate.
  - iv) The program maintains a list of partner schools, and members are responsible for referring if specific program is not available.
  - v) Alumni in business and industry and other institutions of higher education are referring prospects to site.
- 4) Additional University-wide updates on Adult Learner initiatives
- a) Kevin Snider shared a student scholarship story involving a New Kensington student who spent two years building a clinic in Costa Rico before returning to complete a degree in Math and O-Lead. The student wanted to do a year abroad and is now in Mozambique, as part of a Rotary program, then will give back as mentor to traditional aged students.
  - b) Martha Jordan will be part of group presenting the E-Course Substitution program proposed by the Commission to ACUE. This initiative has been in development with AIS to provide a University-wide, web-based system for course substitution for every academic college.
  - c) Jordan's Adult Learner Advocacy Office has coordinated the yearly meetings with Adult Enrollment Coordinators for campuses in the west and University Park to be held October 22 at Penn State Erie, the Behrend College, and for campuses in the east to be held October 26 at Penn State Abington.
  - d) Griswold is working on tracking progress of the 2011 recommendations to the Faculty Senate for Enhancing the Educational Experience of Adult Learners, of which the Commission worked on three of the eight recommendations.
  - e) Sueann Doran coordinated a recent 'Military to College-Transition to Campus Life,' which was featured on regional news programs. Doran received an email from the Pentagon's Warrior and Family Support Office, where the program was included in a list of available resources.
  - f) Bert McBrayer reported that per Faculty Senate ruling, the UAO office is processing applications under academic forgiveness for anything below a 2.0 GPA from learning which was four years ago or longer.
- 5) Committee reports
- a) Hendrick Conference Planning—Wills reported that the committee has met to divide tasks by category: content, facilities, communications, and registration. The group plans a site visit to Penn State Harrisburg on October 30. Conference overall timeframe will be 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. with an Optional First-timers

session offered at 8:15 a.m. The committee agreed to move forward with suggested keynote speaker and will offer targeted topics based on current Commission work. Based on proposed sessions, popular sessions may be able to be offered in more than one timeslot.

- b) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA); Faculty Engagement—Pat Shope held first meeting combining the two committees and has set priorities: increasing faculty engagements in PLA, identifying issuers for underutilization of PLA at the University, Reviewing the Credit by Exam(CrX) process, and pilot faculty workshops. The group will take a closer look at the School of Nursing and its successes with PLA.
  - c) Awards—Paula Pierce noted that the group has not yet met formally, but will soon meet around the Shirley Hendrick Award process and will also examine annual recognition program.
- 6) Lawler adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Wills