



Commission for Adult Learners

November 14, 2012

324 Outreach Building, Innovation Park

10:30 a.m.

Notes

Attendees: Gary Lawler, Chair, Gloria Deschler, Sueann Doran, Anna Griswold, Rachel Heverly, Martha Jordan, Apryl Kadish, Leslie Laing, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Paula Pierce, Karen Pollack, Tara Scales Williams, Maria Schmidt, Pat Shope, Karen Sones, Judy Wills (Notes)

Joined by phone: Jane Ashton, Martha Aynardi, Durell Johnston, Bert McBrayer, Sherry Robinson, Kevin Snider, Ken Thigpen

Unable to attend: Diane Chamberlin, Arthur Durham, Paula Hogard
Ken Womack

- 1) Gary Lawler called the meeting to order.
 - a) The group approved minutes of October 17, 2012, by voice vote.
 - b) Lawler announced that the Executive Committee agreed to pilot an Incentive Grant program with the goal to promote collaboration among campuses toward common goals of serving adult learners. As a reminder, the Incentive Grant program was suspended in 2012 to reevaluate how to best administer the funding and promotion of this program to meet the goal of increasing the enrollment of adult learners. The pilot program will involve the five campuses in the Northeast Alliance to increase the use of prior learning assessment in the programs they offer. After the program pilot ends, the Executive Committee will evaluate and, if the outcome is successful, extend to other campuses and more degree programs. Jane Ashton indicated interest in participating in meetings specific to the pilot.
 - c) Anna Griswold gave an update on progress of 2011 University Faculty Senate Advisory and Consultative Report, "Recommendations for Enhancing the Educational Experience of Adult Learners."
 - i) The Commission was responsible for three of the eight total recommendations. Much progress was reported.

- ii) Griswold is waiting for an update to Recommendation #1. Once received, the revised version will be provided to Commission sponsors and posted to the Commission's web site.
- 2) Sarah Zipf, Manager, Office of Student Aid, World Campus & Continuing Education, reported on Adult Learner Scholarships.
- a) Scholarships use the Adult Learner indicator and need index per FAFSA definition.
 - b) The awarding process is decentralized among academic and administrative units.
 - c) 1968 scholarships were awarded to adult learners University-wide for award year 2011-12.
 - d) Zipf shared information about scholarship opportunities for World Campus and CEUP, including the Jane Ireland Fund and FACES which are employee-supported.
 - e) Profile of scholarship recipients was compiled using GPA, gender, average age and average award amount.
 - f) Award frequency by campus was shared.
- 3) Additional University-wide updates on Adult Learner initiatives
- a) "iCourse: Building Effective College Management Skills"--Tara Scales Williams
 - i) This new course is offered to expose change-of-campus and transfer students to the opportunities and resources at Penn State University Park. Dr. Scales Williams co-teaches with Dr. Vernon Carraway.
 - ii) The three-credit course is currently an elective. It meets twice a week. The course is face-to-face. However, students would have liked to have some information prior to arrival. The course was promoted at campuses in spring.
 - iii) The course has twenty-five students currently enrolled; two have the adult learner indicator. Most students are between third and sixth semester standing and reside in various states as well as an international student.
 - iv) Discussion topics include Penn State Learning Center, Libraries, housing, Office of Student Contact, Career Services, financial literacy, career services, and Angel. Students give summary of last session at the beginning of each session to build presentation skills. Feedback is also shared via Angel drop box.
 - b) Martha Jordan reported that the October 25 Quality Advocates presentation "Here Comes Generation A: What Faculty Have to Say About Adult Learners" had over 100 attendees in person and via Adobe Connect. Jordan, Pat Shope, Karen Pollack, and Jane Owens reported on the findings of the faculty survey conducted in 2012 by the Commission.
 - c) Jordan facilitated two meetings of campus Adult Enrollment Coordinators (AECs).
 - i) AECs from campuses in the western part of the state and University Park met October 22 at Penn State Erie, the Behrend College, and AECs from campuses in the eastern part of the state met October 26 at Penn State Abington.

- ii) These yearly meetings are a means of sharing best practices and networking among the AECs. Pat Shope gave an update on the PLA initiative and Rachel Heverly shared the adult learner profile data which she had reported to the Commission at the June 2012 meeting.
 - d) Jordan shared information on the Course Substitution System. Funding has been secured for the pilot project with a goal timeframe of summer 2012. The project will create one University-wide system that will allow advisors one interface for students requesting substitution of courses on their degree audit. Because approval paths vary by academic college, this system will provide for flexibility in moving the approval forward in a more systematic way.
- 4) Committee reports
- a) Hendrick Conference Planning-Judy Wills
 - i) The committee plans a site visit to Harrisburg to look at available conference session space.
 - ii) Pending invitation is out to a keynote speaker. Confirmation is expected before the December meeting and suggestions for other speakers can be sent to Wills as contingency. Overall agenda within 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. time frame will be finalized after keynoter's schedule availability is confirmed.
 - iii) Apryl Kadish is coordinating first-timers session to be held 8:00-8:45 a.m. and may call on members to share information on the Commission.
 - iv) Web site updates are underway for Call for Proposals. First conference message announcing date, location and call for proposals will be sent when edits are live. Members will be asked to forward to specific target groups as well as other who would have interest in the content.
 - b) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA); Faculty Engagement-Karen Pollack
 - i) The committee discussed ways to implement faculty survey results and to identify the call to action following the Quality Advocates Session.
 - ii) The committee discussed the Primer and how to use it. Suggestion was made to request to add Pat Shope to an upcoming Faculty Senate sub-committee agenda and distribute through this group to the larger Faculty Senate membership.
 - iii) Update was given on the adult learner workshops in the School of Nursing. Shope and Jordan will participate in this two-hour session. Post-session evaluation will be done with Schreyer Institute for Learning Excellence. The workshop may be developed into an online faculty development course.
 - iv) Shope has been visiting campuses to build awareness of PLA and to identify proponents. She will also be presenting at a World Campus faculty convocation.
 - v) Kathy Bieschke, Dr. Pangborn's Administrative Fellow, who has an interest in PLA will attend a future Commission meeting.
 - vi) Paula Hogard is working with a CEUP program to investigate building potential PLA credits into the program.

c) Awards-Paula Pierce

- i) The committee is creating an updated process for receiving Shirley Hendrick award nominations. The process will be email-based, asking nominators to send a completed form with two letters of support to a newly created email address.
- ii) Gloria Deschler is coordinating promotions for the award and will ask members help in distributing message to target email groups and LIST SERVs with goal to get message to senior administrators.
- iii) Nomination deadline is December 14.
- iv) The committee is also revisiting the annual awards process per April 2012 Executive Committee discussion. The current program may be replaced with collective recognition of efforts large and small on behalf of adult learners University-wide. Pierce will follow-up with Executive Committee.

5) Lawler adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wills