



Commission for Adult Learners

December 19, 2012

324 Outreach Building, Innovation Park

10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Attended: Gary Lawler, Chair; Martha Aynardi, Gloria Deschler, Sueann Doran, Anna Griswold, Rachel Heverly, Paula Hogard, Martha Jordan, Apryl Kadish, Leslie Laing, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Pat Shope, Karen Sones, Ken Thighpen, Ken Womack, Judy Wills (Recorder)

Joined by phone: Diane Chamberlin, Durell Johnston, Paula Pierce, Sherry Robinson, Kevin Snider

Unable to attend: Jane Ashton, Arthur Durham, Bert McBrayer, Tara Scales Williams, Maria Schmidt

Guests: Kathy Bieschke, Michael DiRaimo, Kelly Kadish, Amanda Wintersteen

- 1) Gary Lawler called the meeting to order and asked the group to introduce themselves. Kathy Bieschke, Administrative Fellow to Dr. Pangborn, will be attending a few meetings and has an interest in PLA. Kelly Kadish, an adult learner, joined the meeting.
 - a) The group approved the minutes of November 14, 2012, by voice vote.
 - b) Lawler reported that the Pilot PLA Incentive Grant charge meeting is scheduled for January 25 and all but one of the invited chancellors are available to attend
- 2) Discussion with Governmental Affairs Office: Landscape of Higher Education Post-Election - Michael J. DiRaimo, Special Assistant to the President for Governmental Affairs, Office of Governmental Affairs and Amanda Wintersteen, Assistant Director of Federal Relations, Office of Governmental Affairs.

- a) The Governmental Affairs Office is a unit of the University President's Office and has authority to represent the President at meetings.
 - b) There are five staff members: Mike DiRaimo leads the office and oversees the office; Amanda Wintersteen and Maggie Sheely handle federal relations and are based in University Park and Washington, DC, respectively. Zach Moore and Sheilah Borne handle state relations and are based in University Park and Hershey respectively. Borne's focus is healthcare.
 - c) Because leadership did not change after the November elections, no great shifts are expected. However, economic circumstances may force changes both federally and at the state level.
 - d) Federally, spending will focus on accountability and sustainability of programs and their capacity for return on investment. Goal is to protect against waste, fraud, and abuse of tax funds.
 - e) At state level, the University will participate as part of Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) and American Association of State Colleges and Universities AASCU's 'Project Degree Completion: A Public University Initiative'. In response to needs in the employment market, participant institutions aim to increase the number of college degrees they award from an estimated 14.6 million to 18.4 million over the next 14 years. How progress and results will be reported out are not yet outlined.
 - f) DiRaimo and Wintersteen took questions from members and encouraged members to contact their office if additional questions arise.
- 3) University-wide updates on Adult Learner initiatives
- a) Sueann Doran reported that Penn State DuBois, in consultation with Mike Lawrence, Adult College Completion Strategist at the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB), is exploring options for promoting degree completion to adults. Mike Lawrence's efforts are funded by a Lumina grant. Meetings are in the works with local Career Links as possible source of recruits for such a program and PLA will be explored.

- b) Lawler reported that a group is working with Academic Outreach to offer a Saturday accelerated BsB program via the Video Learning Network. Brandywine is leading.
 - c) Karen Pollack reported that World Campus will be meeting after the first of the year about setting up sessions for use with BsB locally.
 - d) Paula Milone-Nuzzo reported that the nursing course offered via the VLN from Fayette and delivered to three other campuses this fall was successful. Ways to balance with World Campus for cost effectiveness are being explored.
- 4) Committee reports
- a) Hendrick Conference Planning-Wills and a group from the planning committee toured Harrisburg campus to look at available general and breakout sessions. Keynote speaker availability has been confirmed and will be announced in spring. Call for proposals will be extended to January 11, 2013. Space will be reserved from Chancellor's panel, Shirley Hendrick Award recipient, possible student panel, Awards and Recognition committee, and session from PHEAA representative. Invitations are pending to Hendrick family. Room block arrangements are in process with two local hotels and catering discussions are underway.
 - b) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA); Faculty Engagement—Shope made additional campus visits to Mont Alto and Brandywine with plans for upcoming visit to Wilkes-Barre. Drafts on the Credit by Exam updated language are with Jeremy Cohen. Adult Learner pilot workshop was completed and evaluations are pending. Barbara McDill joined the committee after attending the workshop.
 - c) Awards and Recognition—Pierce reported that the annual awards would be revamped to solicit stories of efforts large and small across the University on behalf of adults. Stories will be highlighted at the Hendrick conference and details will be shared when set. Nomination window for the Shirley Hendrick Award will be extended into January 2013.
- 5) Lawler adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wills