



Commission for Adult Learners

March 20, 2013

324 Outreach Building, Innovation Park

10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Attended: Gary Lawler, Chair; Gloria Deschler, Rachel Heverly, Paula Hogard, Martha Jordan, Apryl Kadish, Leslie Laing, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Karen Pollack, Tara Scales Williams, Maria Schmidt, and Judy Wills (Recorder)

Joined by phone: Jane Ashton, Martha Aynardi, Diane Chamberlin, Sueann Doran, Durell Johnston, Bert McBrayer, Sherry Robinson, Maria Schmidt Kevin Snider, and Ken Thigpen

Guest: Cathy Bieschke

Unable to attend: Arthur Durham, Anna Griswold, Pat Shope, Karen Sones, and Ken Womack

- 1) Gary Lawler called the meeting to order and gave announcements.
 - a) Hendrick Conference registration is open on a newly redesigned web site.
 - b) The year-end meeting with sponsors will be a dinner meeting, May 8, in Harrisburg. Judy Wills is finalizing details and will send to members when confirmed.
- 2) Committee and liaison reports
 - a) Faculty Senate
 - i) Durell Johnston reported that the Senate is looking at PLA for courses taken by audit. The discussion is not with a specific committee.
 - ii) Lawler reported that Ken Womack is working on putting the suggestion of a list of courses for re-enrollment for adult learners after a stop-out on the ACUE meeting agenda. This topic was

discussed at the October 17 Commission meeting which Karen Schultz attended.

b) Hendrick Conference Planning

- i) Wills reported that online registration is now open for the 2013 Hendrick conference and the web site is newly redesigned. Registration fee is \$75.00, which is lower than last year.
- ii) The planning committee booked room blocks at two local hotels, and booking information is on the conference web site.
- iii) Newswire article is being coordinated with Harrisburg campus and Department of Education.
- iv) Martha Jordan will work with Apryl Kadish on an optional First Timers session. The session will feature a slide show and Q&A.
- v) Opening session will be panel of chancellors. Lawler will moderate and panel will include Dr. Sophia Wiesniewska, Penn State Brandywine; Dr. Kelly Austin, Penn State Schuylkill; and Dr. Mukund Kulkarni, Penn State Harrisburg. Registrants will have opportunity to pose questions to the panel during online registration.
- vi) There will be two breakout sessions with combined total of fourteen sessions offered. The committee reviewed twenty-five proposals and selected twelve. Mark Lafer, PHEAA, and a student panel round out the selections.
- vii) Sharon Christ, Commission chair 2008-09, will facilitate the student panel. The panel will include students with a mix of semester standings, course delivery modes, and degree programs. Commission student member, Arthur Durham, will participate. Jane Aston asked whether a recommended panelist from WB was selected and Wills agreed to follow-up.
- viii) Lunch program will include slide show of recognitions, remarks by the Awards and Recognitions committee, remarks by Shirley Hendrick's daughter Luree Hendrick, and keynote address by PA Secretary of Education Ronald Tomalis.

c) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA); Faculty Engagement

- i) Karen Pollack reported that a University-wide task force is being formed by Yvonne Gaudelius on PLA. The committee members were asked what items they would like the task force to address. They named the following:

- (1) Inconsistency with transfer courses and how that impacts the transfer of PLA credits.
 - (2) Who should be part of the task force?
 - (3) The creation of standardized exams which would be recognized University-wide.
- ii) There was a meeting to discuss an online training course for online faculty re: adult learners at PSU. The course would have two parts.
 - (1) The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence will develop a module for faculty around the pedagogy of working with adults.
 - (2) Martha Jordan and Pat Shope will work on module about PLA and general info about PSU adult learners.
- d) Awards and Recognition
- i) Get summary from Paula Pierce
 - ii) Shirley Hendrick Award will be presented at the Faculty/Staff Awards Reception on March 28.
 - iii) The committee has a good response for the solicited adult learner success stories and photos. The committee will select programs from the submissions for presentation during breakout session at the Hendrick conference. These will be used as basis for the Commission's repository which will be built as part of the overall web site update this summer.
- e) Nominating Committee
- i) Lawler presented slate of nominations for position of 2014-15 Chair. Paula Hogard and Ken Thigpen agreed to be on ballot and opened the floor for additional nominations.
 - ii) Wills will send ballots via email and will compile votes. Lawler will announce result at the April meeting.
- 3) Announcements
- a) The group approved minutes of February 20, 2013 by voice vote.
 - b) May meeting information and logistics
- 4) University-wide updates on Adult Learner initiatives
- a) UP Adult Learner Focus Group re-cap
 - i) Leslie Laing held and Adult Learner focus group Monday, February 18 from 3:30 -5:00 PM in Heritage Hall.

- ii) Laing used her adult learner LIST SERV to invite adult learners and student veterans representing varied demographic categories from various majors to talk about their experience at Penn State and as means to help us to evaluate and fine tune our programs and services.
 - iii) Damon Sims, VP Student Affairs, Craig Weidemann, VP Outreach, Andrea Dowhower, Assistant VPSA, Martha Jordan, Director of Adult Learner Advocacy, Anna Griswold, AVP and Exec. Director Student Aid facilitated the groups.
 - iv) Laing shared some comments and is compiling report of all comments.
- b) World Campus “Transitions” program –
- i) Karen Pollack shared that a World Campus version of the Transitions program currently offered by CEUP is in development. The goal of the program is to help prepare prospective students for college success and touches on topics such as basic English, math, technology skills, and career advice.
 - ii) The program will be free of charge, but will have an application and web site, which is expected to be ready in April.
 - iii) Paula Hogard gave background and history about the face-to-face session offered by CEUP, which runs six weeks in the evenings at University Park and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at the Lewistown Center. The CEUP program partners with community resources. Hogard will send link to video featuring the program.
- c) Other updates
- i) Gary Lawler gave an update on the PLA pilot program. The second planned meeting with IST and BSB faculty was held on March 11. Each group identified potential courses for offering Credit by Exam (CrX) and team authoring of exams was well-received.
 - ii) Lawler noted the group was enthusiastic to explore PLA as a means to help recruit and retain students, especially those with 200- and 300-level courses to transfer in.
 - iii) The two groups are working among themselves and will reconvene later in spring.

- d) Bert McBrayer shared update to the question raised in February around whether the filters used for Chancellor and Provost Awards adversely affect adult students.
 - i) Both the Provost and Chancellor Awards take into account a myriad of factors when determining award eligibility. Both the probability of attendance and the educational index (EI) are central factors in the awarding process. Standardized test scores (e.g. SATs) are a factor in calculating the educational index and, as you are aware, the University does not require that adult learners report SAT or ACT scores.
 - ii) The probabilities that are calculated are specific for each campus and the relatively small numbers of adult learners at each campus makes the calculation of a reliable model difficult.
 - iii) Additionally, applicants to the World Campus -- a sizable majority of which are adult learners -- are not eligible for either the Provost or Chancellor awards.
 - iv) Given these issues, a majority of adult learners will not be eligible for consideration for these awards. However, Madlyn Hanes has made other funding available for making awards, and this provides campuses with discretionary flexibility for use with groups such as adult learners.
- e) Kevin Snider shared that campus offices will be open later at Penn State New Kensington two evenings per week as means to bolster adult enrollments. Lawler noted similar discussions are in progress at Penn State Hazleton and is looking at whether additional staff is needed.
- f) Paula Milone-Nuzzo shared that the School of Nursing is closing its Associate's degree programs at five campuses. Job placement has become an issue due to industry changes. The sites are changing over to baccalaureate programs and will be adult-focused.
- g) Ken Thigpen reported increase in evening classes. The group discussed that there is no longer 1:1 headcount with FTEs and how to enhance policy friendliness to adult learners. Lawler noted that budget model is based on revenue, not FTEs. Snider noted that increased focus of offering hybrid courses for the adult population may be a way of leveraging resources to meet needs. The group thought outcome of the Budget Task force may be of interest. Lawler and Jordan will get word to Madlyn Hanes.

5) Lalwer adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wills