PENNSTATE

Commission for
Adult Learners

The Pennsylvania State University
301 Outreach Building
University Park, PA 16802

Phone: 814-863-1316
Fax: 814-865-3810
www.outreach.psu.edu/commission

Commission for Adult Learners
May 8, 2013
Hanes Board Room, C300 Olmsted Building
Penn State Harrisburg
6:30p.m.
Minutes

<u>Attended</u>: Gary Lawler, Chair; Jane Ashton, Martha Aynardi, Diane Chamberlin, Gloria Deschler, Sueann Doran, Arthur Durham, Anna Griswold, Rachel Heverly, Paula Hogard, Durell Johnston, Martha Jordan, Apryl Kadish, Leslie Laing, Bert McBrayer, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Paula Pierce, Karen Pollack, Sherry Robinson, Pat Shope, Kevin Snider, and Judy Wills, Recorder

<u>Unable to attend</u>: Karen Sones, Tara Scales Williams, Ken Thigpen, and Ken Womack

<u>Guest</u>: Dr. Terrell Jones, Vice Provost, Educational Equity and Commission for Adult Learners Sponsor

1) Dinner

2) Gary Lawler called the meeting to order
   a) Announcements
      i) Lawler asked members to prepare questions for Ron Tomalis to kick-off the audience Q&A after his keynote address at the Hendrick conference.
   b) University-wide updates on Adult Learner Initiatives
      i) Martha Jordan noted that May 6 was the fifteenth anniversary of the Commission and shared history prepared by Eric White, inaugural member. The history is available on the home page of the Commission's web site.
      ii) Jordan also announced that she requested Anne Rohrbach to include transfers on the weekly admissions report distributed by the Undergraduate Admissions office. Rohrbach agreed and the information will be on the reports starting next week.
   c) The group approved the minutes from April 17, 2013, by voice vote.

3) Adult Learner Data—Rachel Heverly, Associate Director, Educational & Institutional Analytics shared adult learner data update for Budget Academic Year 2012/13.

   a) Heverly pulled data based on the University's Adult Indicator. Apryl Kadish noted the importance of adding the indicator for adult learners who did not file a FAFSA.

   b) Hevery reported data broken down by credit load, semester start, age range, military, gender, race/ethnicity, degree sought, and major.

   c) Heverly included comparison to her data from BAY 2011/12 and overall student data from the University Fact Book. Only largest slices were used for percentages. Figures as illustrated may not add up to 100%.

   d) Profile data included full-time/part-time status, course delivery method, course delivery times, transfer credits, grade point averages, and Prior Learning Assessment (PLA).

   e) Using unduplicated headcount across the University, overall, adult learner enrollments are higher than last year, holding steady at University Park, declining slightly at commonwealth campuses and growing in World Campus.

   f) Martha Aynardi asked whether decrease in evening classes taken is result of fewer offered evening courses. She also asked if PLA credits are tracked by how the credits were assessed (Credit by exam, Portfolio analysis, etc.). Heverly is working with Pat Shope to develop best tracking method. Shope noted that some military PLA credits are not showing properly due to how they are input.

   g) Heverly will send overall data and breakdown by campus to members after the meeting. Members can send any questions on the reports to rachelheverly@psu.edu .

4) 2012-13 Year-end report – Gary Lawler and Committee Chairs
   a) Lawler reported on the accomplishments of the 2012-13 Commission.
      i) Membership for the year evenly represented by University Park and campuses.

ii) This year's Commission voted to add 'serve as a repository and facilitating body for all adult learner-focused initiatives University-wide' to its charge. The information will be introduced as part of our web redesign over the summer.

iii) The group continued to monitor and implement recommendations from the "University Faculty Senate Advisory and Consultative Report, Recommendations for Enhancing the Educational Experience of Adult Learners." Per the report, the Adult Learner Advocacy Office created and filled the PLA Coordinator position in 2012 and the Adult Financial Literacy Coordinator position in 2013.

iv) Results from the 2011 Faculty Survey were used as basis for a pilot workshop with the School of Nursing and a faculty training module with Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence. Over 100 colleagues attended the October session 'Here Comes Generation A' Quality Advocates Session based on the results. Martha Jordan, Pat Shope, Martha Aynardi, Karen Pollack, and Jane Owens led the session. Shope has made nineteen presentations and visited five campuses to build awareness of PLA.

v) The Commission voted to repurpose the former Incentive Grant Program toward targeted strategic initiatives in alignment with the University's Mission and Core Council Recommendations. The 2012-13 Initiative is a pilot PLA project with the Eastern Alliance campuses looking at Credit by Exam (CrX) in BSB and IST programs.

vi) The Commission invited presenters to our monthly meetings to present on the Philadelphia Education Opportunity Center, Graduate Philadelphia!, adult learner scholarships, Government Affairs and the Landscape of Higher Education Post Election, financial aid for adults, and a new University PLA Task Force.

b) Awards and Recognition-Paula Pierce, Chair

i) Pierce added that the Awards and Recognition Committee continued to work toward raising visibility for the Shirley Hendrick Award, which yielded high caliber nominees for 2013. The committee worked with new collaboration tools to streamline the selection process and Tara Scales Williams developed a rubric for evaluating candidates. The 2013 recipient, Leslie Laing, Assistant Director for Adult Learner Programs and Services, Student Affairs, University Park, will present her accomplishments at tomorrow's conference.

ii) The committee will also host a panel of select Annual Recognition recipients at the conference. The panel will share successful programs which can be replicated at other locations. A slide show during the lunch program will feature all the recognitions received and Pierce will acknowledge them verbally at lunch.

iii) These programs will be the basis of the planned repository on the redesigned Commission web site. Nominations will be accepted year-round.

c) Hendrick Conference Planning-Judy Wills, Chair

   i) Wills reported that over 190 registrants and guests are expected at tomorrow's conference and walk-in registration will be available.

   ii) The conference will feature a first timers' session with history and mission of the Commission, opening panel of campus Chancellors, thirteen breakout sessions, recognitions, and PA Secretary of Education Ron Tomalis as keynote speaker. Breakout sessions coordinated, presented, or invited by the Commission include the recognitions panel, student panel, new PLA web site, PHEAA profile and distribution data, and 2013 Shirley Hendrick Awardee.

   iii) This is the first conference away from University Park with strong network of volunteer support at Penn State Harrisburg, coordinated by Donna Howard.

   iv) Post-conference evaluation feedback will be shared with presenters in June and used to shape future conferences.

d) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)/Faculty Engagement-Pat Shope, Chair; Martha Aynardi and Karen Pollack, Co-Chairs, Faculty Engagement Subcommittee

   i) Pat Shope spoke of the tentative opportunity for twenty-four PLA credits to be part of the Workforce Education program.

   ii) Shope is part of the University-wide committee looking at MOOCs and is considering how badges and competencies may best be part of PLA strategy.

   iii) Shope will also explore using PLA at the graduate level.

   iv) The sub-committee will continue to build on its momentum. Shope noted that there is much potential still to be realized and populations and industries which can be strategically targeted.

   v) Aynardi asked about possibility to get academic leadership to discuss pooled question band for CrX for lower level and general education courses. Shope will include the idea on task force discussions around building engagement around PLA.

   vi) Karen Pollack reported that Shope and Jordan are working on content for OL1600, a self-led introduction to adult learners

offered to faculty who teach online through World Campus. Kathy Jackson (Schreyers Institute) will include pedagogical information. OL2600 will also be developed with PLA as content focus.

    e) Response from Dr. Jones
        i) Terrell Jones responded favorably to the reports.
        ii) Dr. Jones posed questions about whether the new two-day format for new student orientation should be modified for adults. Laing shared that she met with Dan Murphy about this. No specialized plans are underway this year; however, this will be handled on case-by-case basis. After the first season, any necessary changes could be implemented in future orientations. Aynardi noted that many campuses hold separate orientation for adults and transfers.
        iii) From Rachel Heverly's report, Jones asked questions about representation and parity with regard to race/ethnicity, military, and first generation students among adults. He also asked whether graduate and law students are included in the reports Heverly answered based on available information, noting that data on active military is difficulty to obtain. Griswold will send information on first generation population who have applied for aid and completed non-required field for 'self-supporting.'

5) Transition to 2013-14
    a) Recognition of out-going members
        i) Lawler acknowledged and thanked outgoing members for their service: Jane Ashton, Martha Aynardi, Gloria Deschler, Arthur Durham, Anna Griswold, Rachel Heverly, Durell Johnson, Karen Pollack, and Karen Sones.
    b) Members should send recommendations for new members to Jordan and Wills. There will be a leadership meeting over the summer to identify candidates to forward to sponsors. Craig Weidemann's office will send official invitations to appointed members in July or early August.

6) Lawler adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wills