



October 16, 2013  
324 Outreach Building, University Park  
10:30 a.m.  
Minutes

Attended: Ken Thigpen, Chair-Elect; Jamie Campbell, Diane Chamberlin, Sueann Doran, Paula Hogard, Martha Jordan, Apryl Kadish, Leslie Laing, Sonya Leitzell, Bert McBrayer, Paula Pierce, Sherry Robinson, Pat Shope, Judy Wills (Recorder)

Joined via Polycom: Francis Achamong, Durell Johnson, Albert Lozano-Nieto

Guests: Christ Stubbs, Chris Gamrat

Unable to attend: Gary Lawler, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Mike McNeese, Kevin Snider

- 1) Dr. Kenneth Thigpen, Chair –Elect, Called the meeting to order.
  - a) Announcements
    - i) Martha Jordan attended the October 7 meeting of the Council of Campus Chancellors (CCC) to discuss the Adult Enrollment Coordinator (AEC) role and its importance. She shared the list of currently appointed AECs for each campus and has since received updates. Jordan will conduct meetings with the AECs from University Park and campuses in the west on October 24 hosted by Penn State DuBois and with AECs from campuses in the east on October 24 hosted by Penn State Hazleton. The Executive Committee approved funds to sponsor the meetings at its September 18 meeting. Jordan will report meeting outcomes at the November 20 meeting.
    - ii) Judy Wills asked for confirmation of which members will need lodging after the May 2014 meeting. The year-end dinner meeting with sponsors will be May 14 at the Nittany Lion Inn and the Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference will be May 15 at the HUB-Robeson Center. Wills will hold a block of rooms at the Nittany Lion Inn.
  - b) Members approved minutes of September 18, 2013 by voice vote.
- 2) PLA Badging Pilot—Chris Stubbs, Project Manager, Educational Gaming Commons Education Technology Services; Chris Gamrat, Doctoral candidate in Learning, Design, and Technology, College of Education
  - a) Pat Shope gave background on the initiative and her involvement with the PLA aspect regarding the assessment piece. Badging is prospective vehicle to micro-credential

competencies.

- b) Chris Stubbs outlined the history of badging at the University. Open badging provides framework for showing criteria and evidence supporting badges.
  - c) Stubbs addressed badging as response to questions raised around assessing the learning taking place in MOOCs and via self-taught internet applications.
  - d) Other current and potential uses include STEM programs for younger learners and capturing transferrable learning for veterans and military learners.
  - e) L3 is Penn State's program for badging.
    - i) It started as system using stamps and badges as platform for capturing recertification professional development for teachers.
    - ii) A start-up grant through the University's Center for Online Innovation in Learning (COIL) was approved for funding the project.
    - iii) Stubbs demonstrated the L3 program. Users can build a badge, create a queue of badges they intend to complete, and build a portfolio. Users can make portfolios public. Creators have option of building a badge or cloning an existing one. As caveat, once published, it cannot be changed.
    - iv) Currently there is no cost associated with using the system. A revenue model is under consideration.
    - v) Members with interest in getting a user account for L3 may request access through Chris Stubbs at [stubbs@psu.edu](mailto:stubbs@psu.edu).
- 3) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Task Force update—Ken Thigpen
- a) Thigpen gave background and timeframe of the task force and its charge. The group was charged by Yvonne Gaudelius and Craig Weidemann in spring 2013 and worked over the summer on recommendations. The group submitted final report October 10.
  - b) Part of the report emphasizes that PLA is not a new initiative at the University. The group focused on how to increase implementation. The report touched on best practices, recommended oversight and policies to inform future practices.
  - c) Other task forces were working concurrently including one on MOOCs, Online Steering Committee, and Budget Committee. The PLA Task Force tried to avoid duplicating or contradicting the others.
- 4) University-wide updates on Adult Learner initiatives
- a) Jordan distributed two articles from [EvoLLLution](#) 'Five Most Critical Needs of Adult Students' and "Becoming the Majority: Adult Students on the Rise." Wills will send

links to each with draft minutes.

- b) Jordan also noted that a new adult learner landing page on the psu.edu web site will go live soon. Jordan will send a link when available.

5) Updates and Committee reports

- a) Faculty Senate Liaison-Durell Johnson stated that the senate did not meet since the last Commission meeting. At the next meeting, course drop/add and repeating will be discussed along with whether other schools allow or refuse use of PLA.
- b) Awards and Recognitions Committee-The committee has not met since the September 18 Commission meeting. Paula Pierce, committee chair, reported that the committee is developing ideas for promoting awards.
- c) Hendrick Conference Planning Committee—Apryl Kadish, committee co-chair, reported that the planning committee met to preliminarily assign tasks and set overall agenda for the 2014 conference. The overall agenda will be similar to 2013, with opening beginning at 9:00 a.m. and lunch program ending by 3:00 p.m. The first communications piece, a date-saver and call for proposals, will be sent in early November. Keynote speaker ideas are being gathered and members can send suggestions to Kadish or Wills.
- d) Military Support Services Committee—Sueann Doran, committee chair, reported that they recently sent a survey to all campus certifying officials and will develop questions for an upcoming student survey based on results.
- e) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Committee—Pat Shope, committee chair, reported that the committee met to set direction for the year. They prepared for the PLA Task Force update and discussed possibly authoring a White Paper. Through COIL Shope is involved in a potential research project that will determine how MOOCs affect the organization.

- 6) Updates to Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules—Jordan summarized proposed edits to the Commission's Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules. Changes include language updates to reflect Dr. Weidemann's title and role and combining similar bullet points of the Commission's charge. At their September 18 meeting, the Executive Committee approved the changes to be presented to members. Edits were distributed to members in attendance. Wills will send with draft minutes. Members should send edits to Jordan by November 14 and copy Wills. Jordan will then send final version to sponsors.
- 7) Thigpen adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Wills