



March 19, 2014
324 Outreach Building, University Park
10:30 a.m.
Minutes

Attended: Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Chair; Sueann Doran, Martha Jordan, Gary Lawler, Sonya Leitzell, Albert Lozano-Nieto, Maria Schmidt, Terry Speicher, and Judy Wills (Recorder)

Joined by Polycom: Paula Pierce, Ken Thighpen

Guests: Anna Griswold, Daad Rizk, Sponsor Craig Weidemann, and Mary Beth Williams

Unable to attend: Francis Achampong, Jamie Campbell, Diane Chamberlin, Paula Hogard, Durell Johnson, Apryl Kadish, Leslie Laing, Bert McBrayer, Mike McNeese, Sherry Robinson, Pat Shope, and Kevin Snider

1) Paula Milone-Nuzzo called the meeting to order

a) Announcements-None

b) Slate and ballot process for electing 2015-16 Chairperson--On behalf of the nominating committee, Gary Lawler presented Dr. Francis Achampong as nominee for position of 2015-16 Chairperson and opened the floor to additional nominations. Judy Wills will email ballots out to membership and allow ten days for confidential voting. Results will be announced at the April 16 meeting.

2) Presenters

a) Gen Ed Task Force-Dr. Mary Beth Williams, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, Eberly College of Science, gave an overview of the project and timeline.

i) Information is available at <http://www.gened.psu.edu>. The site is continually updated and includes the task force meeting schedule and the Faculty Senate Forensic Report.

ii) The vision is to “Enable students to acquire the skills, knowledge, and experiences for living and working in interconnected and globalized contexts, so they can contribute to making life better for others, themselves, and the larger world.” Budget constraints are not leading the vision.

iii) Learning objectives will be based on national best practices and rubrics and logistics, including number of credits, will follow once boundaries are established.

iv) Tentative timeline is summer and fall of 2016 for new and transfer students with

phased implementation. Legislative report to Faculty Senate is expected in fall 2015.

v) Williams showed a student video produced by Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence and will send link for sharing with members.

vi) Williams opened discussion and invited questions:

- (1) Has the task force looked at accreditation requirements of specific degrees to avoid increasing the number of credits for graduation? The group is trying not to cause any increase in total credits.
- (2) Is teamwork one of the learning objectives? Not specifically but faculty could propose engaged scholarship through team projects. Williams will take the suggestion to include teamwork back to the task force.
- (3) If transfer students are missing a theme, what is the process for handling that? This cannot yet be answered. Milone-Nuzzo noted the challenge posed in consideration of how much can be transferred in while maintaining a unique Penn State educational experience.
- (4) Will the themes be revisited for relevance per the ebb and flow of society? The hope is to have continuous review, innovation, and evaluation that objectives are met.
- (5) Will themes be noted on transcript? Yes, and this could encourage curricular overlap.
- (6) Health, physical education and wellness requirements are often barriers for adult learners. Will these requirements be removed? This is not yet defined. This could be one domain of a theme for interdisciplinary thinking, with colleges considering how each could participate.
- (7) Has the task force benchmarked how other schools moved to implementation of similar initiatives? Yes, details are still to be determined. The intention is not about finding staffing efficiencies, but the focus may shift to faculty engagement opportunities.
- (8) What has been the feedback from employers? From Students? There is a survey out through career services to all 16,000 employers in their database and an alumni survey is in development. There is a subcommittee hosting focus groups and town hall meetings at campuses. Feedback is available on the group's web site. A broader survey of all students is also planned. Suggestion was raised to encourage focus groups of adult learners, perhaps coordinated with campus Adult Enrollment Coordinators. Contacts on the student sub-committee are Ann Taylor and Patrick Tanner.

b) Student Aid Update-Anna Griswold, Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Education and Executive Director for Student Aid provided an update on student aid.

Her presentation will be distributed with the meeting minutes.

- i) Most of the data shared is based on undergraduate students and provides a big picture of amount, type, and sources of aid received.
- ii) Federal loans are the largest source of aid for both undergraduates and graduate students. Institutional aid is higher for graduate students due to graduate assistantships. Staff tuition grant in aid is not included in the report.
- iii) Demographic breakdown of adult students receiving aid was included by residency, campus location, gender, marital and dependent status, median income, and aid program. Griswold also offered comparison between adult student aid recipients against all undergraduate aid recipients.
- iv) Average loan debt was reported for students who graduate, and average unmet need was reported. Griswold noted that individual scholarship criteria determines whether to award each based on need or merit, but some might allow need to be weighted should all other criteria be equal.
- v) Griswold gave an update on default rates and noted that the default rate is tracked by cohort. She reported that next year the default rate metrics will be recalibrated to a broader three-year picture.
- vi) The group posed questions about the report.
 - (1) Faculty Senate report mentions two million dollars for student aid, what form does this take? This falls under the central institutional piece as Trustee, Chancellor, and Provost awards and needs-based awards like the Bunton-Waller Award.
 - (2) Is the provost scholarship needs based? Yes and awarding will begin next week to students who have not yet accepted their offer of admission. This is more related to admissions.
 - (3) With the national push for degrees, are changes in financial aid aligning to get students to the finish line? Not yet, though debt for adult learners is critical to their success. There is risk of exhausting aid before degree completion. Suggestion was raised to add this to the Commission's topics for next year and noted that this can be tied to decisions on courses, prior learning assessment and financial literacy initiatives.
- c) Adult Financial Literacy-Dr. Daad Rizk, Financial Literacy Coordinator, Outreach and Online Education gave an update on her initiatives to date.
 - i) Her position was created in response to the recommendations from the Faculty Senate report and Rizk has presented at several highly visible meetings including the March 6, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting. She also attended a University Marketing Council meeting with Anna Griswold to request dedicated space on the University web site

- home page near the link to Financial Aid information. Suggestion was raised to have links to and from the Commission's web page.
- ii) Link to information from her "Money Counts" webinars and workshops conducted to date are on the Commission's web site and upcoming dates will also be added. Post event data is available, and Rizk plans to track non-attending registrants.
 - iii) Rizk also worked in partnership with Dr. Cathy Bowen to establish a Student Financial Education Center on campus with peer counselors who are finance students in the Smeal College of Business. Peer counselors must successfully pass an exam to participate in the program. Dr. Bowen will be presenting at an upcoming "Huddle with the Faculty."
- 3) Milone-Nuzzo asked if members could stay past the scheduled meeting end time, if available for updates and Committee reports
- a) Faculty Senate Liaison-No report
 - b) Awards and Recognitions Committee-Paula Pierce provided an update.
 - i) The 2014 Shirley Hendrick award will be presented at the March 24 Faculty/Staff Awards Lunch. Update: Congratulations to Dr. Ann Williams, Chancellor of Penn State Lehigh Valley, who is this year's recipient. She will present during the opening of the Hendrick conference.
 - ii) The group received nine nominations for recognitions and will include the three Shirley Hendrick award nominees. The recognitions represent a broad range of job titles among staff and also include faculty. The recognitions will be part of the lunch program at the Hendrick conference and the committee will also feature a selection of recipients during a breakout session.
 - c) Hendrick Conference Planning Committee-Judy Wills provided an update.
 - i) Online registration opened on March 3 and was promoted via email, news wire, and social media. To date, there are 116 registrants.
 - ii) The next planned promotion will be via the same channels and will include mention of the Shirley Hendrick award recipient and topic.
 - iii) The program will include three poster sessions and information tables for the Commission and the Penn State Federal Credit Union, who sponsored our giveaway item, in the main event space. Committees are welcome to provide information on their initiatives for the information table.
 - iv) Speakers for the opening will be Milone-Nuzzo, Dr. Nick Jones, and Dr. Ann Williams, as the 2104 Shirley Hendrick Awardee. The lunch program will include recognitions, remarks from Shirley Hendrick's daughter Luree Hendrick, and Dr. Roxanne Gonzales, our keynote speaker.

- v) The committee focus will shift to event logistics.
 - d) Military Support Services Committee-Sueann Doran gave an update.
 - i) The committee is working on their session for the Hendrick conference and is collaborating via a Google document.
 - ii) The group is considering session content, AV needs, handouts, and logistics for the session.
 - e) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Committee-Albert Lozano-Nieto gave an update.
 - i) The group is seeking faculty to pilot the OL 2600 course. Names can be sent to Pat Shope.
 - ii) The Credit by Exam pilot in BSB is complete. The committee will write an announcement that can be sent out by Milone-Nuzzo to the University.
 - iii) Plans and ideas for a series of webinars for faculty are in development.
 - iv) The group forwarded information about engaged scholarship to CAL leaders for discussion.
 - f) University-wide update—Martha Jordan reported that fifty-nine adults University-wide were among the recipients for the Freshman Award, President Sparks Award, and Evan Pugh Award. Jordan will share the information with the Adult Enrollment Coordinators for use in conjunction with campus awards ceremonies and Milone-Nuzzo will send congratulatory notes on behalf of the Commission to the recipients. This data will also be included on the fact sheet in development as part of the internal communications plan.
- 4) The group approved the minutes of February 19, 2014 by voice vote.
- 5) Milone-Nuzzo asked to extend the April 16 meeting end time to 1:00 p.m. to hear from our three planned presentations and adjourned meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Wills
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