



**February 18, 2015**

324 Outreach Building, University Park  
Polycom dial-in 440229  
10:30 a.m.  
Minutes

Attendees: Ken Thigpen, Chair; Jamie Campbell, Sueann Doran, Martha Jordan, Apryl Kadish, Sonya Leitzell, Albert Lozano-Nieto, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Brooke Repine, Terry Speicher, Judy Wills, Recorder; and Ken Womack

Attended by Polycom: Francis Achampong, Jo Anne Carrick, Kelly Austin, and Angela Pettitt

Sponsors attending: Madlyn Hanes, Rob Pangborn, Damon Sims, Craig Weidemann and Marcus Whitehurst

Guests: President Eric Barron, Penny Carlson, Renata Engel, Daad Rizk, and Kevin He

Unable to attend: Diane Chamberlin, Pete Forster, Bert McBrayer, Leslie Laing, Sherry Robinson, Maria Schmidt, and Pat Shope

1. Welcome and call to order, Dr. Kenneth Thigpen, Chair welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.
2. Campus articulation agreements and update on the Course Substitution Request System- Penny Carlson, Executive Director for Academic Services and Assessment, Office of the Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses.
  - a. Updates on campus articulation agreements
    - i. Trend of increased population of community college students by institution
    - ii. Age breakout of community college population. Note: Adult students and community college figures include part-time enrollments
    - iii. Evidence that these students are succeeding
    - iv. Opportunities in articulation agreements
    - v. Challenges
    - vi. University College process to date on initiative
  - b. Updates on the Course Substitution Request System (CSRS)
    - i. Background and pilot information, including colleges in process of implementation
    - ii. Activity for first year through November 18, 2014
    - iii. New opportunities: Lion Path coding, recoding all that are currently 'general'
    - iv. Collecting syllabi from other institutions and moving toward offering pre-admission degree audits

c. Questions

Does part of the articulation agreement have the ‘legs?’

Yes, and once agreement written, the campus has a role in fulfilling it. The Pittsburgh campuses are coming together to coordinate regionally. The Pittsburgh and Philadelphia branding councils can help promote regional visibility for Penn State.

Is Westmoreland County Community College on the list? Fayette has it in hand. Chancellor Patrick and the community college’s president are working on.

How does PLA work relative to articulation agreements? Michele Rice’s office will work through how to best manage this academically and organizationally for Penn State.

Are campuses championing with community colleges? Yes, each campus has at least one person.

- d. Judy Wills will send copy of Carlson’s slides to members with the draft meeting minutes.

3. Conversation with Dr. Eric Barron, Penn State President

CAL leadership asked Dr. Barron to share his thinking about accessibility and affordability of Penn State for adult learners at all locations.

- a. “Under your six imperatives, how do adult learners and the commission factor into what is on your immediate and long-term focus?”

Most apply and present challenges for adult learners. Many traditional-age students are taking on characteristics of adult learners, for example full-time work

Access and Affordability

Concerns are more around overall cost than annual tuition increase.

Part-time status will add both expense and time to degree. Renata Engel reported that the Enhanced Educational Pathways Committee is comparing program costs for part-time versus full-time enrollment and looking at ways to eliminate the higher cost of attending part-time. Engel will share more detail at the March 18 CAL meeting.

Students going part-time have an associated financial aid limitation and risk exhausting available aid before completing degree. There is need for adult-friendly scholarships and aid. Suggestion was raised to ask development officers and chancellors to work with local legislators on ways to support students locally, building a funding stream for scholarship support.

The Educational Pathways committee is also considering ways to build financial literacy and will invite Daad Rizk, Financial Literacy Coordinator, to a meeting. Rizk has seen an increase in demand for her workshops and webinars and is developing a web site, which CAL is sponsoring.

Adult learners struggle to manage course loads around full-time work. Blended course delivery could be the best solution and finding ways to partner would be “win-win.”

Kelly Austin noted that the University of Florida admits students completely online for their first two years, and then they can transition into the university as juniors. This could be a potential model for adults’ pathway into the university.

Paula Milone-Nuzzo emphasized the need to strengthen prior learning assessment (PLA) and students’ need to know for what they will get credit before coming in. Resolving this for our adult students will benefit all students. When adults decide to return to school, there is no current means to assess where they are. There is need to have new assessment points like ALEKS.

We need to tell adult learners how we support them and what their lives will look like as students. Returning to school or going from part- to full-time are major life decisions.

Recommended academic plans needs to be tailored for almost every adult learner. Lion Path enhancements will be helpful.

Campuses struggle with childcare and having children in classrooms, especially around school district inclement weather changes.

There is need to build a prepared work force across the state and form partnerships to make sure we are providing the right types of courses and programs companies need for building their workforce.

There is need and student demand to increase use of prior learning assessment and acceptance of transfer credits to reduce costs and time to degree.

Building engaged scholarship opportunities for adult learners is challenging because their lives are already extremely full. There is a need to find creative approaches, for example engaging the whole family in activities on campus. Engel shared an example where Vera Cole developed a program which embeds engagement opportunities into the academic program. There is opportunity for World Campus students who are in the community in their dual role of student-community member to engage locally. Participating on local projects as a means to conduct research could enhance engagement.

Francis Achampong is leading the CAL Access and Affordability task force to identify barriers and working on recommendations. President Barron looks forward to receiving information on the recommendations.

- b. “What is your view of how the commission might advance the University’s initiatives with military service students?”

The Military and Veterans Support Services Committee plans a survey this spring to glean information on how we can better serve our military and veteran population.

Apryl Kadish noted from her work as Adult/Military admissions counselor that the best approach has been to provide a community and invite military and veteran students to participate. They come in at their own time and some never do. Our role should be to encourage and invite.

Marcus Whitehurst noted that an informal poll among students showed that many have less interest in programmatic opportunities and more focus on career opportunities after graduation.

#### 4. Updates

- a. Announcements

- i. Martha Jordan was invited to attend the Pittsburgh Marketing Council meeting in mid-December to discuss the needs of the adult learner market. She presented scenarios and obstacles common among our adult population.
- ii. Jordan also attended the ACUE AAE committee meeting earlier this month to review policies AAPP C-2, D-5 and M-4 with a focus on adult learners.

- b. University-wide updates on adult learner initiatives

- i. Jordan noted the new Margaret A. West and Nino Morello Jr. Trustee Scholarship, a World Campus scholarship. The criteria give priority to adult learners and the scholarship can be for any World Campus Student.
- ii. New version of our Fact Sheet was distributed. For this edition, dated January 2015, information is presented on the below:
  - 1. Data on top degree programs and careers;
  - 2. CAL committees charges.
- iii. As new editions become available, they will be available in PDF format on the CAL web site and an archive of prior versions will be available to view.
- iv. Planned frequency is three times per year: September, January, and May.

## 5. Comments from sponsors in attendance

- i. Dr. Pangborn reported pending work with Undergraduate Admissions to look at way to admit adult learners without requiring a high school transcript. Faculty Senate and ACUE policy changes would be necessary.
- ii. Dr. Whitehurst thanked members who worked on the review of the Framework for Diversity. Whitehurst will be meeting with Provost Jones to review committee reports to focus on recruiting and retaining a diverse student body.
- iii. Damon Sims affirmed the importance of the planned military and veteran student survey and noted availability of resources in Student Affairs to support future efforts. Sims applauded Daad Rizk's efforts to date around Financial Literacy and noted the conversations happening around enhancing additional types of literacy including medical literacy, for example. Career services understands the need to identify what values we can offer to adult learners and that any flexibility created would offer benefit across all student populations.
- iv. Dr. Hanes noted that adult learner issues remain high priority for campuses. As part of her presentation in March, Engel will note plans which are underway to offer a pilot at six campuses accommodate students who come in with specific needs. Hanes looks forward to feedback from that meeting.
- v. Dr. Weidemann reported that based on findings from a recent survey of World Campus students, a joint position will be created with Student Affairs to meet career services needs of students at distance.

CAL leaders emphasized the importance of our sponsors' involvement in raising the level of dialogue to build visibility and understanding of Penn State's adult learner population and their challenges.

## 6. Committee, Liaison, and Task Force reports

### a. Faculty Senate Liaison-Angela Pettitt

General Education proposals will be voted on in March. There has been much discussion around the World Language requirement, which presents disproportional burden for adult learners. Pangborn noted that the language requirement was added on the Senate floor around the kinds of literacies to encourage in our students and as expression of types of outcomes we are seeking. The report was not yet voted on, and the topic may be reintroduced looking very different.

Weidemann and Engel gave an informational report on the success of the World Campus at the January 27 senate meeting. The link to the report is <http://senate.psu.edu/senators/agendas-records/january-27-2015-agenda/appendix-i/>. The World Campus strives to meet the needs of adult learners.

b. Access and Affordability Task Force-Francis Achampong

The task force is shifting focus to look at barriers identified during their work in fall 2014.

Rising tuition and fees—Reign in costs and use technology as part of a 2+2 model to increase access.

Obstacles to PLA—Implement adult-friendly PLA practices and implement through PLA Task Force recommendations.

Lack of friendly transfer-credit evaluation system - Implement strategy to include articulation agreements. Continued rollout of CSRS and the integration into Lion Path.

Financial Literacy limitations-Explain true cost, provide a calculator tool and podcast explaining full-time versus part-time enrollment; explore income-based loan repayments. Encourage more Gen Ed courses which emphasize financial literacy.

Challenge with academic preparedness-Mitigate the challenge and encourage adults to utilize available support and advising services.

Lack of adult degree completion program-Recommendation to revisit this issue.

The group will begin crafting its report in March and have a full report ready by April.

Weidemann noted that textbooks are a significant expense and asked if the committee has considered including a recommendation to look at open source content.

- c. Awards and Recognitions Committee – Martha Jordan reported that 2014 Shirley Hendrick award recipient has been selected and that one other nominee will be presenting at the Hendrick conference. All information for the reception has been sent to University Relations to prepare for presenting the award during the April 15 Faculty and Staff Awards Reception.
- d. Hendrick Conference Planning Committee – Judy Wills reported that the program content has been finalized. The opening program will include an overview of CAL and its current initiatives by Ken Thigpen, introduction of Michele Rice, Director of Prior Learning Assessment, and the Shirley Hendrick awardee presenting accomplishments. During two breakout sessions, we will offer six topics each, with full CAL committee participation and invited content relevant to CAL’s mission. Scott Sheely, former Executive Director of the Lancaster County WIB will deliver the keynote address. The committee is finalizing updates to the conference web site and online registration system and will open registration the first week of March.
- e. Military and Veteran Support Services Committee – Sueann Doran reported that the committee will present two separate Hendrick conference sessions, each will have a focus on military and veteran services. Recent committee survey of

certifying officials uncovered a need for veteran focus groups. The committee will address this need in 2015-16. Current work is in process on the military student survey with Student Affairs. The survey is expected to launch after spring break, with results expected in April.

- f. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Committee-Albert Lozano reported that Michele Rice provided the committee with an update on transfer of credits and reviewed a PLA model developed by community colleges and how it will impact transfer of credits.
7. The group approved the minutes of December 17, 2014 as submitted.
  8. Thigpen adjourned the meeting 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Wills