



May 11, 2015

Nittany Lion Inn, Alumni Lounge
Dinner meeting with sponsors
5:30 p.m.
Minutes

Social time 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Welcome and dinner 6:00 p.m.
Business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Attended: Ken Thigpen, Chair; Francis Achampong, Jamie Campbell, Jo Ann Carrick, Diane Chamberlin, Sueann Doran, Martha Jordan, Apryl Kadish, Leslie Laing, Sonya Leitzell, Albert Lozano, Bert McBrayer, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Brooke Repine, Maria Schmidt, Pat Shope, Terry Speicher, Judy Wills, Ken Womack

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

Guests attending: Renata Engel, Jodi Harris, Michele Rice, Daad Rizk

Unable to attend: Kelly Austin, Pete Forster, Angela Pettitt, Sherry Robinson

1. Ken Thigpen called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.
2. Adult Learner data profile, Jodi Harris, Associate Director, Outreach Analytics and Reporting, shared adult learner profile data for 2014-15. Judy Wills will send a copy of Harris' presentation slides with the draft meeting notes.

Data is pulled based on the presence of the adult indicator to show an unduplicated headcount at the Commonwealth Campuses, World Campus, University Park and university-wide was reported for all undergraduates, undergraduate adults, all graduate students, and graduate adults. The presentation focus was on the undergraduate student population. Comparison was made between fall 2014 and the full 2014-15 academic year. Half of spring or summer starts were adult learners.

Overall headcount trend for the past three years shows slight growth, with slight decrease at the commonwealth campuses and University Park and growth in the World Campus. Harris also provided percentage of adults among total undergraduate headcount. Overall, adults comprise one-fifth of the undergraduate student population.

Harris provided demographic breakdown by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and military

status.

Demographic breakouts by age show that 75 percent of adult students are between 24-39 years old.

18 per cent of adults are active duty military and veterans. However this number is likely low due to self-reporting aspect.

The Hispanic population growth increased, and the white population decreased. The overall distribution of race/ethnicity mirrors the undergraduate Fact Book.

Harris also provide breakout by academic college, type of degree sought, and major. 64 percent of adults are non-degree or in programs in the College of Liberal Arts, University College, College of Nursing, or Capital College.

Harris noted that for reporting purposes, she separated out pre-major from non-degree. There may be correlation with the decline in the associate degree trend to the decrease in availability of associate degrees at campuses.

The majority of adults are in baccalaureate degree programs at 59 per cent.

Top associate degree programs are business administration, IST, Letters, Arts and Science, nursing, and HDFS. These have been consistent for the past three years.

Top baccalaureate degree programs are nursing business, IST, psychology, and organizational leadership. These have been consistent for the past three years, although OLEAD and LAS have swapped ranking among the list.

Harris provided breakout of full-time/part-time status and average number of courses taken by semester.

She noted that while 43% of students taking online courses are World Campus students, 11% are taking online courses elsewhere in the University. Face-to-face delivery make be partially driven by when they are offered rather than indicating preferred method of delivery.

Questions and discussion points:

Dr. Weidemann noted that with the high percentage of millenials now in or soon to fall under the adult learner definition, that their traits should be examined.

Renata Engel asked if data was available on how many credits adults bring to the University. Dr. Hanes has the information for the campuses. 2012-13 is the most current due to a reporting lag. Dr. Pangborn noted it would be interesting to see those who have more than two years to bring in with them.

3. Year-end report, Ken Thigpen

Thigpen reviewed the agenda for the next day's Hendrick conference. The

opening will include remarks from Dr. Michele Rice as Director of Prior Learning and our 2015 Shirley Hendrick Award recipient was Dr. Nels Shirer, associate dean for education in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. After a variety of breakout sessions, including presentations from each of the Commission's committees, the lunch program will feature remarks from Provost Nicholas Jones, Ryan Hendrick, Shirley Hendrick's grandson, and our keynoter Scott Sheely who will discuss ideas of enhancing adult career pathways. Judy Wills chaired the conference planning committee.

Diane Chamberlin chaired the Awards and Recognition committee this year. The committee worked to update criteria for the Shirley Hendrick award to include innovation. The committee solicited and reviewed nominations and selected Dr. Shirer as the recipient. Based on the updated award process, one additional nominee was invited to present at the conference and will be recognized with a certificate of congratulations at the session.

Sueann Doran led the Military Support Services committee, newly named the Military and Veteran Support Services. That committee surveyed student satisfaction based on findings of the survey of certifying officials last year. With assistance from the Student Affairs' assessment office, the committee distributed the survey to military and veteran students University-wide and results were received in April. The committee will present two topics at the Hendrick conference: "Adult Education Boot Camp-Basic Information to Ensure Veterans' Success" and "Panel Discussion on Veterans and Military Students."

Thigpen noted that following last year's recommendations from the University Task Force on Prior Learning Assessment, two proposals have been enacted. The University hired a Director of Prior Learning Assessment in Undergraduate Education, Dr. Michele Rice. Also, Dr. Rice will have each campus and college identify a champion for PLA for that specific location.

In keeping with the imperatives announced when Dr. Barron started his presidency at Penn State, Commission leadership discussed including Dr. Barron's imperative around improved Access and Affordability, specifically addressing adult learners. A task force was created under the leadership of Francis Achampong. The task force examined barriers and developed strategies to address them. The group's report will be discussed in detail later in the meeting.

The Commission worked to publish an adult learner fact sheet this year. Three editions were produced, September 2014, January 2015 and May 2015. The May fact sheet was provided to attendees and has a military focus. All versions will be available on the Commission's web site.

As continued work on the Plan to Implement the University Faculty Senate Advisory and Consultative Report, Recommendations for Enhancing the Educational Experience of Adult Learners, the Commission sponsored and

supported development of a dedicated web site around financial literacy, which Daad Rizk reported went live this morning.

4. Access and Affordability task force discussion, Francis Achampong gave an overview of the group's work to date. During fall 2014, the task force identified six barriers and in spring 2015 developed recommendations to address each. The recommendation report was distributed to members and sponsors for review prior to the meeting. Dr. Achampong invited discussion from attendees.

Michele Rice distributed data on number of transfer credits students brought in 2013-14 and other forms of PLA students brought in 2013-14 including nursing block, credit by exam, credit by portfolio, and College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Wills will include copy of the data with the draft notes. Rice will also participate with Pat Shope and the PLA committee to present the "All About Portfolios" breakout sessions at the Hendrick conference. Going forward she will be looking for help inventorying credit by exam and credit by portfolio requests. Lion Path could provide a better way to discuss what is transferrable and how to bring in the credits and the Course Substitution Request System (CSRS) could make the process more seamless. Madlyn Hanes noted the CSRS is helping transfer determinations happen very quickly and that most requests are being approved. As the system grows, this should make transfer credits more student-friendly.

To ensure consistency with the Middle States requirement, Rice researched colleges to see what policy exists. There remains need for transparency and consistency. Liberal Arts' portfolio class will be helpful.

Madlyn Hanes emphasized the importance of serving those with some college, no degree. Achampong noted that the task force is considering how to best uncover who they are and how to best reach them.

Rob Pangborn noted Penny Carlson's work identifying thirty institutions that students transfer from most often and the work being done to find direct equivalents. Dr. Pangborn explained the transcript fee for courses transferred in, and Achampong will delete the recommendation that the course transfer fee be dropped. Pangborn explained that all transfer courses come in during the application process and are evaluated when a transfer student is admitted and is included in the application fee. If the transfer student later takes courses elsewhere, then a \$10 transcript fee must be paid to evaluate and transfer those courses in. A revised copy of the report with this change will be provided with the minutes.

Madlyn Hanes, provided information on articulation agreements. Penn State does program-to-program articulation. Ultimately this communicates to a much smoother transition to the university. Work is in progress with twelve of the fourteen community colleges in PA as consortia. The goal is to be more efficient

and effective. To date, most of the agreements are either approved, or in process.

Renata Engel shared an update on the Enhanced Educational Pathways committee. That group is seeking to identify areas where work is already in process around access and affordability for purposes of including them in the request for financial support. The committee has already identified need to address PLA, financial literacy/wellness, and the challenges of academic preparedness. They are looking at using summer bridge programs and providing support using resources already in use at the World Campus. World Campus is having tremendous success with offering online, professional tutoring services (Tutor.com) which emerged from a K-12 environment into higher education and provides 24/7 access to tutors.

Weidemann encouraged the group to look at alternatives to address the price of obtaining a degree if attending full-time versus part-time and paying per credit. One idea would be to offer the full-time rate with part-time attendance if the program is completed within some specified window of time.

The report, as revised above, will be considered officially submitted.

5. Announcements and approval minutes from April 15, 2015

- a. Thigpen recognized and thanked outgoing members Diane Chamberlin, Sueann Doran, Apryl Kadish, Bert McBrayer, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Sherry Robinson, Maria Schmidt, Ken Womack, Angela Pettit and Pat Shope.
- b. Information for Hendrick conference-Judy Wills

We expect 230 participants from 19 campuses: 158 attendees, 40 presenters, 19 volunteers, and 13 guests (including the Hendrick family, and the Provost/his Administrative Fellow).

All committees are presenting during the conference and we will also have breakout sessions from the CSRS team, a session on Millennials, a session on creating new academic programs at campuses and a session on the Gen Ed revisions and the impact on adults.

Members with speaking roles in the program will have reserved seating toward the front of Alumni Hall with open seating otherwise.

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. Presenters will have a separate, designated registration lane. Members should gather for a group photo will be immediately after the program ends. Members staying at the Nittany Lion Inn can call guest services to arrange for shuttle to the HUB-Robeson Center.

6. Thigpen adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Wills

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