



PennState

Commission for **Adult Learners**

December 14, 2016

324 Outreach Building (Polycom videoconferencing available*)

10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Attended: Albert Lozano, Chair; Julie Cross, Renata Engel, Sandy Feather, Diana Gruendler, Jared Hammond, Martha Jordan, Leslie Laing, Michele Rice, Beth Seymour, David Smith, Renee Thornton-Roop, and Judy Wills, Recorder

Joined by phone or Polycom: Francis Achampong, JoAnne Carrick, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Patty Staskiel, Kristin Woolever, and Liz Wright

Sponsors present: Damon Sims and Craig Weidemann

Unable to attend: Ashley Adams, Kelly Austin, Jamie Campbell, Michelle Corby, Brooke Repine, and Daad Rizk

1. Announcements

- a. Albert Lozano thanked Craig Weidemann for his support as sponsor. This was Weidemann's final meeting as chief sponsor before he begins phased retirement. Martha Jordan presented Weidemann with an engraved desk clock to commemorate his support as chief advocate of adult learners. Renata Engel will serve as interim sponsor and Interim Vice Provost for Online Education.
- b. Sponsor Damon Sims thanked the commission for its continued advocacy of adult learners and commended its progressive efforts and initiatives.
- c. Diana Gruendler shared a success story about a student currently in the Air Force Reserve who earned her BA in LAS in May 2016. She was our first student to complete LA 201W (portfolio course) and submit her work for PLA credit. She earned three PLA credits for LAS 496 (her capstone course) Part of her portfolio was a documentary that she did for the Air Force Academy and which was shared the PLA council. The student applied for grad school (using her portfolio as writing samples) and was admitted to a Masters in Social Work program.
- d. Michele Rice added that as more students take the portfolio course, especially those in the Integrated Social Sciences major, there is expectation that more departments will be asked to evaluate portfolios across the University. There are plans to possibly add a military-specific portfolio course.

- e. Rice also noted that the PLA office began a project to gather syllabi from other institutions. To date 454 were collected from 24 institutions via emails to department chairs. 85% have been reviewed and submitted to CSRS.
 - f. The fall 2016 CAL fact sheet was distributed to members and is available on the 'About' section of our web page.
 - g. Judy Wills has requested wrist bands available for the All-In initiative for CAL members. These bands are intended to invite discussion around diversity and inclusion as a way to advocate for the adult learner population.
 - h. Beth Seymour moved to accept the minutes from November 16, 2016, and David Smith seconded. Members approved unanimously; the approved minutes will be posted to the CAL web site.
2. Extended Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC) report—Leslie Laing, Michele Rice, Patty Staskiel, and Jared Hammond
- a. The committee analyzed results of their fall survey sent to Directors of Student Affairs and the World Campus Student Advisory Board to inform the committee focus. The results confirmed that students want to build community, be included, and connect to build long term relationships.
 - b. The committee reviewed Holley Rochford's child care report and developed follow-up questions to send her.
 - c. The committee will build a template based on the success of adult learner focus groups at University Park and encourage campus Adult Enrollment Coordinators and certifying officers to emulate.
 - d. The committee considered creative ideas for providing designated study space for adults and veteran students, including how to make online students feel connected. Francis Achampong and JoAnne Carrick shared an overview of how their respective campuses developed a Veterans Center.
 - e. The committee will reach out to Julie Cross to explore whether graduation data can be included in the profile shared with sponsors at the CAL year-end meeting.
 - f. The group is exploring opportunities for vets and adult learners to be part of the All-In conversations and can bring up to the new senior director for Veterans Affairs and Services when he attends a spring meeting.
3. Committee, liaison, and task force reports
- a. Access and Affordability Task Force, JoAnne Carrick and Beth Seymour
 - i. Committee did not meet since November CAL extended report. Carrick had a teleconference to look at part-time student data at a few campuses including data from Daad Rizk's financial literacy initiative. Her intent is to get a profile of part-time students. Certain subgroups may need to be removed to fine tune the population used for running any tuition differential model only for degree-seeking part-time students. The

committee plans to meet in January to prepare for its next report at the February CAL meeting and the March conversation with President Barron.

- ii. The committee also looked at comprehensive services for adult students. They are working with financial aid for creative solutions for when adult students run out of financial aid. There is need for defined program to address/advise these students. More often than not, these students are those that come in with some rather than no credits.

b. Faculty Senate Liaison-Beth

- i. There is an upcoming meeting scheduled with Karen Pollack as part of the Faculty Senate Undergraduate Ed committee to discuss the short-term military leave proposal that the 2015-16 Military and Veteran Support Services committee developed. Seymour, Martha Jordan, Renee Thornton-Roop, and MVSS committee member Margaret Oakar will attend.
- ii. The Faculty Senate chair recommended that the committee on Outreach sponsor a forensic report focused on Adult Learners. This would be presented by Seymour and Jordan, with a group of adult students present as well. A forensic report will allow more time to generate discussion with the Senate. Anticipated timeframe is March 2017.

c. Hendrick Award and Conference Planning-Judy Wills, Sandy Feather, Francis Achampong

- i. The committee received six strong nominations for the 2017 Shirley Hendrick Award. The selection committee will review the materials and meet to make a selection in early January. The award is presented at the annual Faculty/Staff Awards Reception in April and the 2017 and 2016 recipients will be recognized at the Hendrick conference in May.
- ii. The conference program subcommittee is finalizing details. Provost Jones will give remarks during the opening. The committee has verbal commitments from breakout presenters and will seek feedback from the Executive Committee before finalizing the program.
- iii. The committee is confirming conference expenses and will present 2017 proposed registration fee at the February executive committee meeting. Committee members at campuses agreed that offering travel grants could provide incentive for attendance from campuses with limited resources.

d. Military and Veteran Support Services, Renee Thornton-Roop

- i. The committee plans to reach out to Col. McFeely in early January to invite him to join their monthly committee conference call. They will ask Col. McFeely to take the lead on an updated needs assessment, expanded to include World Campus.
- ii. The mentor opportunity published in the Penn State News generated good results and Thornton-Roops's office is already pairing mentors with mentees and filling requests for speakers.

- iii. The committee continued discussion regarding OL3200 (formerly OL1700). 44 faculty/instructors have completed the course. The committee discussed promoting awareness of the course and the possibility of informing HR of its existence for sharing with new hires.
- iv. They discussed a faculty senate request for information on veteran offerings/services and the need for tracking of veteran graduation rates and debt and will follow up with Daad Rizk to determine if she is now or tracking this subset, or if it is possible to do so. The concern is students who graduate after exhausting benefits may not be accurately counted. The committee has reached out to the Registrar's office and will also work with Brooke Repine to determine availability of data from the Office of Student Aid. Also self-reporting and including dependents in benefits impacts the ease of accuracy for tracking data on graduation rates.

4. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

The Commission does not meet in January. Our next scheduled meeting is February 15, 2017, 10:30 a.m.12:30 p.m. in 324 Outreach Building with Polycom videoconferencing available.

Submitted by Judy Wills