



Penn State

Commission for Adult Learners

General Meeting Minutes

Date: April 17, 2024, **Time:**
10:30AM - Noon

CAL Members: Bidy Brooks, Brian Cameron, Shannon Corkery, Trisha Everhart, Debra Flaig, Bill Fritz, Chuck Greggs, Erin Hendrick, Ruth Ann Herstek, John Holst, JeanMarie Jacob, JoAnn Kelly, Melissa Kunes, Leslie Laing, Sheri Matter, Col. Eugene McFeely, Denise Poole, Esther Prins, Robin Redmond Wright, Michele Rice, Amy Rustic, Jungwoo Ryoo, Stacy Sekely, Renee Thornton-Roop, Michael Vicaro, Jeff Warner, Gina Whalen, Tracie White, Whitney Zimmerman

Attendees: Bidy Brooks, Shannon Corkery, Debra Flaig, Bill Fritz, Chuck Greggs, Erin Hendrick, John Holst, JoAnn Kelly, Melissa Kunes, Leslie Laing, Eugene McFeely, Matt Melvin, Jessica O'Brian, Denise Poole, Esther Prins, Michele Rice, Nadia Richardson, Amy Rustic, Clayton Steen, Stacy Sekely, Gina Whalen, Tracie White

Welcome

Welcome to Erin Hendrick Strat Comm and Nadia Richardson Recruitment(Whitney's replacement as Data Liaison).

Thank you to Chuck and Hendrick Planning Committee for hosting the conference, good attendance, first hybrid conference, a lot of positive feedback.

March Minutes Approval

- Motion to Approve – Melissa & Clayton
- Second – JoAnn
- Minutes Approved

Election Results

- Chair Elect – Bidy Brooks
- Secretary – Tracie White

Transfer Recommendation Discussion (please read

- The focus is on how transfer credit impacts all subcommittee areas with an emphasis on this being the focal point for our End of Year (EOY) Report, highlighting key takeaways.
- Internal discussion revealed differing perspectives on the establishment of a transfer and articulation center, ranging from a business model approach to a support network for transfer students.
- Suggestions include the review of lower-level credits using rubrics provided by faculty, implementation of a degree audit tool similar to Franklin University's, and the need for clearer communication regarding the transfer credit evaluation process.
- Efforts are underway to compile a resource explaining the transfer credit evaluation process, with consideration given to input from the transfer governance council.
- President Bendapudi emphasized the importance of elevating recommendations to the Senate level and establishing accountability for implementation, particularly in clarifying pathways to support transfer students.

- Suggestions include prioritizing the establishment of transfer credit policy and exploring guidelines from institutions like EAB and the Gardner Institute.
- Matt Melvin underscores the need for a comprehensive approach to support transfer students, including technological solutions aligned with university goals.
- There is a call for flexibility in degree options to accommodate transfer students and address adult degree completion opportunities.
- The discussion concludes with a commitment to continue advocating for policy changes and support mechanisms for transfer students.

Committee Meetings

Committee reports

- Hendrick
 - A total of 111 participants attended.
 - Breakdown: 83 from Penn State, 28 from other institutions, with many serving as presenters.
 - The hybrid format was highly effective, allowing presenters from across the country to participate seamlessly.
 - While there were areas identified for improvement, such as potentially dedicating sessions or a keynote to transfer-related topics like PLA.
 - Appreciation extended to the Committee, Erin, the Hendrick Family, Melissa Kunes, and all attendees.
- University Engagement & Outreach
 - The focus is on demonstrating transfer friendliness and ensuring consistent communication about transfer process to enhance engagement.
 - Outreach efforts could leverage existing articulation agreements.
 - While the implementation of a degree audit tool requires time and resources, emphasis is placed on effectively communicating information once it is available.
- Recruitment
 - The committee is actively exploring how to best support transfer students, acknowledging that new ideas should complement rather than overshadow existing efforts.
 - Emphasis remains on addressing the social and emotional needs of students during the recruitment process through community building and academic life coaching.
 - Efforts to simplify and streamline services, enhance physical spaces, and facilitate earlier student engagement are incorporated into ongoing discussions and future planning.
- Removing Barriers
 - Discussion revolves around ensuring effective communication regarding transfer credit evaluation and utilization.
 - Financial considerations, such as the potential impact of credit accumulation on tuition rates, are addressed.
 - Concerns regarding advisor availability over weekends and the need for priority registration from an adult learner perspective are highlighted.
 - Efforts to increase financial assistance, including the provision of scholarships, are deemed essential to address barriers to higher education.
- Strategic Communications
 - Strategies are being developed to communicate the importance of transfer credit and students to stakeholders.
 - In the College of Health and Human Development (HHD), efforts are underway to review and enhance curriculum flexibility.
 - A one-page document outlining strategies for reviewing curricula and revitalizing offerings is proposed as a valuable resource for colleges to consider.

Sponsor Comments

- No sponsor comments provided.

Announcements

- Question related to student-initiated fee –that money cannot be used for scholarships. Keep scholarships in mind moving forward in the commission.
- A reminder about an upcoming event: <https://hhd.psu.edu/hdfs/about/events/conversation-christie-tate>

Adjournment