



Penn State

Commission for Adult Learners

General Meeting Minutes

Date: October 16, 2024,

Time: 10:30AM – 11:30 AM

CAL Members: JoAnn Kelly, Biddy Brooks, Brian Cameron, Shannon Corkery, Trisha Everhart, Debra Flaig, Bill Fritz, Adrienne Goldsberry, Chuck Greggs, JoAnn Kelly, Julie Heaton, Erin Hendrick, Ruth Ann Herstek, John Holst, Melissa Kunes, Leslie Laing, Sheri Matter, Eugene McFeely, Esther Prins, Robin Wright, Michele Rice, Nadia Richardson, Jungwoo Ryoo, Renee Thornton-Roop, Michael Vicaro, Gina Wahlen, Tracie White, Michelle Wiley

Attendees: Biddy Brooks, Trisha Everhart, Debra Flaig, Bill Fritz, John Holst, JoAnn Kelly, Melissa Kunes, Leslie Laing, Sheri Matter, Esther Prins, Michele Rice, Nadia Richardson, Renee Thornton-Roop, Gina Whalen, Tracie White, Michelle Wiley

Welcome

June and September Minutes Approval

- Motion: Bill
- Second: John
- Motion: Sheri
- Second: Bill
- Approved

Adult Learner Dashboard – Nadia Richardson, Institutional Research Consultant, Outreach and Online Education

- <https://pennstateoffice365.sharepoint.com/sites/OutreachAnalyticsandReporting/SitePages/Adult-Learner-Dashboard.aspx?e=dgMVsq>
- All of the data is of undergraduate students only.
- Navigation discussed of PSU Summary and Campus
- You can disaggregate by campus and view reports of demographics, academic plans, 5-year trends, and IPEDS 8-year outcome measures.
- **15.2% of all Penn State undergraduates were adult learners.**
- **Overall, 48.0% of adult learners completed a program in 8 years, compared to 73.7% of traditional students.**
- **Part-time, first-time students were most at risk of not completing.**
- **The number of adult learners has decreased, while traditional-age student headcount has increased.**
- Question – transfer data – comes from the National Clearinghouse, unsure of where they are going.
- This gets updated in the Spring ~March or April.

Review of 23-24 End of Year Report

- We want to focus on adding thoughts to the strategic plan. Try to make some additions here: <https://strategicplan.psu.edu/engage/>
- We spoke much about transfer and saw some movement in that area.
- Invite Matt Melvin to talk to the group about what he's seeing and how we can help advocate for the recruitment and retention of adult learners. He could also provide insights into conversations with the Commonwealth Campuses and how we can help achieve goals.
- We need to work with Development to address the financial aspect of barriers for adult learners.

- The military/veteran population has declined since COVID-19; we are seeing more dependents than veterans. There is a need for additional scholarships since the cost of living is rising, and other costs are associated with attendance.
- What does it take regarding resources and people to pre-advise before attaining a degree audit tool? – The “What If?” report can help as a resource.
 - Another aspect is making sure things can be uniform. They need to know if its feasible, given the number of credits, financial situation, etc. which leads to hesitance in returning.
- Committee Structure: Continue to consider these changes. Consider how we organize to support the strategic plan.

Announcements

- The Credit for Prior Learning Application is going into production Thursday morning. Michele will send links to the documentation for review.
- This semester, we have 7 sections of course 6 on WC 1 at UP and more sections for the Spring. We are still collecting feedback. Working with DLC presents challenges.
 - Most of our first-year seminars are major-based – some changes are coming – but that is one of the issues that presented challenges in pushing the course.

Adjournment