



## Commission for Adult Learners

October 12, 2011

324 Outreach Building,

University Park, PA

Minutes

Attended: Anna Griswold (Chair), Beth Ann Delaney, Gloria Deschler, Martha Jordan, Erica Kresovich-Rockey, Leslie Laing, Gary Lawler, Paula Pierce, Tara Scales Williams, Renee Scheske, Deb Straussfogel, Judy Wills (Recorder)

Joined by phone: Jane Ashton, Martha Aynardi, Kevin Snider

Unable to attend: Lori Bechtel-Wherry, Paul deGategno, Paula Hogard, Spencer Lewis, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Jane Owens, Karen Pollack, Karen Sones, Rachel Stover, Ann Williams, Careen Yarnal

Guests: Jennifer Moore, Geoffrey Cook

- 1) Anna Griswold called the meeting to order.
- 2) Announcements
  - a) Anna Griswold presented at the October 11 Faculty Senate meeting on student loan debt, including private loan debt, and financial literacy as an important life skill. Kevin Snider asked for copy of the report and Griswold will forward to members.
  - b) Martha Jordan will convene regional meetings with campus Adult Enrollment Coordinators on October 17 at Penn State Beaver for campuses in the west and October 18 at Penn State Harrisburg for campuses in the east. Jordan will report back on the meetings in November.
- 3) The group approved the minutes of September 14, 2011, as submitted, by voice vote.
- 4) Adult Learner Definition Comparison Data, Jennifer Moore, Market Research Manager, and Geoffrey Cook, Market Research Specialist reviewed research done to examine how fifty-six schools and eight organizations defined adult learners. Research included language usage

of 'Non-Traditional' versus 'Adult Learner' and similarities and differences between schools and organizations. (Presentation attached)

- a) Discussion topics included the following:
  - Reasons why organizations were defining adult learners. The research looked specifically at advocacy organizations and policy creators.
  - Whether 'financially independent' since it is included in criteria under new federal legislation that allows for unmarried adult children to age twenty-six to remain covered by their parent's health insurance policy. How employer-paid tuition plays into financial independence was also discussed.
  - Why Penn Status uses 'Adult Learner' instead of 'Non-Traditional' and whether a matrix should be considered to focus on needs and resources available based on specific factors.
  - How the adult indicator was currently used and who can add the indicator under 'other' reason and document.
- b) Griswold asked for recommendations for using the information
  - Suggestion was made to find ways to map the adult indicator to services available and identify existing gaps in services.
  - Whether to take a different view and use student aid flag
  - Griswold will invite Moore and Cook to share their research at a national association's student aid conference held in July 2012.

## 5) Committee reports

- a) Awards-No report.
- b) Faculty Engagement-Martha Aynardi reported the group is working on a document based on how Ohio State University uses Credit by Exam (CrX). Karen Pollack met with a group around faculty training.
- c) Hendrick Conference Planning—Judy Wills reported that the committee met on September 28 and divided tasks. Initial promotional message is expected early in November and Wills asked the Commission to forward the message to list servs and groups with an interest to which they belong. Members may forward suggestions for conference keynote speaker to Wills.
- d) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)—Gary Lawler reported that search is ongoing for PLA Coordinator in Martha Jordan's unit. The committee has contacted Nancy Herron to assist with creating a list of myths regarding CrX and who has authority to execute per E-2: Credit by Examination, <http://www.psu.edu/oue/aappm/>.

6) Updates

- a) Faculty Survey-Martha Jordan reported that the survey has not yet been distributed because the research company is still awaiting lists from campuses and departments. Jordan requested members from campuses who have not yet submitted lists to remind their campus contact to submit lists as soon as possible.
- b) Faculty Senate Recommendations-Jordan shared an update of the status of all recommendations made in the report 'Enhancing the Educational Experience of the Adult Learner'. Future updates will be shared when available. Wills will add the report to the Commission's web site under 'Resources.'

7) Griswold adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wills