



Commission for Adult Learners

April 17, 2013

324 Outreach Building, Innovation Park

10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Attended: Gary Lawler, Chair; Diane Chamberlin, Gloria Deschler, Sueann Doran, Anna Griswold, Rachel Heverly, Paula Hogard, Martha Jordan, Apryl Kadish, Leslie Laing, Paula Pierce, Karen Pollack, Tara Scales Williams, Pat Shope, Karen Sones, and Judy Wills (Recorder)

By phone: Martha Aynardi, Durell Johnston, Bert McBrayer, Sherry Robinson, Maria Schmidt, Kevin Snider, and Ken Thigpen

Unable to attend: Jane Ashton, Bert McBrayer, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, and Ken Womack

Guests: Kathy Bieschke, Dr Pangborn's Administrative Fellow and Yvonne Gaudelius, Assistant Vice President and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

- 1) Gary Lawler called the meeting to order.
- 2) Announcements
 - a) Lawler announced that Ken Thigpen will be Chair for 2014-15.
 - b) The group approved minutes from March 20, 2013 by voice vote
 - c) The May 8 meeting will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Hanes Board Room, C300 Olmsted Building. Executive Committee voted to cover lodging expenses at hotels listed on the conference web page for any members attending both the May 8 meeting and May 9 Hendrick conference. Judy Wills will send budget information for members' ERS reports.
- 3) PLA initiatives
 - a) Lawler shared update from the PLA Pilot.

- i) At meeting March 11, faculty groups in the pilot discussed specific courses that would be appropriate for credit by exam. From the IST side, courses that were selected were: IST 110, 210, 220, 250 and there was some discussion on including: 225, 226, 227, and 228. From the business perspective, the Management 301, Marketing 301, Supply Chain 200, Econ 102 and 104 would be some courses to consider. Management 301 and Marketing 301 are significant to articulation agreements.
 - ii) World Campus offered to compensate faculty to write the exams. Gary Lawler will update Karen Pollack of the pilot's progress.
 - iii) Question was posed whether any exams currently exist. They do, but are decentralized. The PLA subcommittee had done an inventory at one time, but it would be outdated
- b) University task force-Yvonne Gaudelius
- i) Craig Weidemann and Yvonne Gaudelius gathered a University-wide group to address issues related to PLA and to provide recommendations for strategic direction that Penn State may move with respect to PLA. Membership includes a broad cross-section of members, including faculty, staff, and administrators to provide a range of perspectives. Copy of the charge letter was shared with attendees. Wills will send to membership with draft minutes.
 - ii) Some items under consideration are the current strategy and its effectiveness, what forms of PLA should be used, whether number of credits awarded for PLA should exist and, if so, what they should be, what level of courses should be eligible, fee structure and its administration, where responsibility lies for developing portfolio assessment; whether to assess MOOCS, whether to allow non-Penn State students to earn PLA, how to involve faculty, and where to house and administer the overall PLA initiative at the University. The task force will also look at revenue structure and uses, and policies and procedures to recommend needed changes.
 - iii) Ken Thigpen will chair the task force. Recommendations are requested by August 15, 2013.
 - iv) Other stakeholders not represented on the task force may be identified during the course of the task force's work. If so, their involvement may be part of the recommendations.
 - v) Pat Shope referenced the Faculty Senate Recommendations from December 2010 which the Commission worked on and which were

pertinent to PLA. Similar recommendations were made to create a template for PLA, hire a PLA Coordinator and look at fee structure. Recommendation made at that time to increase the fee to \$60 per credit received approval, but that change was not implemented. Gaudelius noted that a budget task force is looking at the fee. Shope noted that per CAEL, recommendation is to charge for assessment service, not credits.

- vi) Shope noted that the Commission's PLA committee focuses in on Policies and Procedures and building engagement from within.
 - vii) Idea of pre-assessment was discussed to help prospective PLA users to determine whether a gap exists between their knowledge and expected course outcomes prior to taking PLA. This is similar to the readiness interview Terry Speicher does at Berks.
 - viii) Gaudelius noted that agenda items could be sent between the PLA sub-committee and task force.
- 4) Committee and liaison reports
- a) Faculty Senate-No report.
 - b) Awards and Recognition
 - i) The recognitions compiled for the Hendrick conference will be added to the Commission's web site as part of the site redesign this summer.
 - ii) There will be a one-page list of the recognitions for the Hendrick Conference. These will be placed at the tables during lunch.
 - iii) Five of the programs recognized will be part of the planned breakout panel at the conference. Sueann Doran will moderate. Leslie Laing will also present a session on her accomplishments as the 2013 Shirley Hendrick award.
 - iv) Slideshow of all the recognitions will run during lunch with captioned photos of program participants.
 - c) Hendrick Conference Planning
 - i) Online registration closes Monday, April 22. To date, the committee has received 146 online registrants.
 - ii) Newswire message went out April 4.
 - iii) Chancellor's panel has received questions from Lawler.

- iv) Lunch program will include recognitions, remarks from Shirley Hendrick's daughter and keynote speaker PA Secretary of Education Ron Tomalis.
- v) Registration will open at 7:30 a.m. and will be staffed by Penn State Harrisburg volunteers.
- vi) Order of program for Commission's involvement is in progress.
- d) Prior Learning Assessment (PLA); Faculty Engagement
 - i) Shope reported that the new PLA web site will be unveiled during her session at the Hendrick conference. Terry Speicher will participate in her session and speak about his pre-assessment process.
- 5) University-wide updates on Adult Learner initiatives
 - a) An ACUE committee has been charged with looking at the re-enrollment exemption process for students away less than three years per Karen Schultz' discussion at the October 2012 meeting.
 - b) Anna Griswold shared information on College Board report '[Rethinking Pell Grants](#)'; sponsored by the Gates Foundation and the Lumina Foundation. The report proposes a dual approach: Path A for adults, and Path Y for students younger than 24. The aim is to simplify and use IRS three-year average to evaluate eligibility. After approval, grant is for duration of studies. Pell grants adjust based on hours for part-time students.
 - c) Martha Jordan reported that Daad Rizk, the new Adult Financial Literacy Coordinator will deliver her first workshop in the afternoon. Plans are to hold workshops or webinars on financial literacy topic monthly. The initiative has received much interest from the press locally and from as far away as Europe.
 - d) Pollack shared that World Campus got approval to move toward an increased enrollment goal over 10 years. Committee was formed to support the goal to look at topics such as recruitment and admission decision time whose outcomes may have impact beyond World Campus. Dr. Hanes will speak today at the Academic Outreach all-staff meeting. Pollack is also chairing search for Director of Collaborative programs. The incumbent will work with Dr. Hanes and Nancy Herron, looking at ways to work toward the enrollment goal.
- 6) Lawler adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wills