



**April 15, 2015**

324 Outreach Building, University Park  
Polycom dial-in 440229  
10:00 a.m.  
Minutes

Attended: Ken Thigpen, Chair; Jamie Campbell, Jo Anne Carrick, Diane Chamberlin, Sueann Doran, Martha Jordan, Apryl Kadish, Leslie Laing, Sonya Leitzell, Albert Lozano-Nieto, Bert McBrayer, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Brooke Repine, Sherry Robinson, Maria Schmidt, Pat Shope, Terry Speicher, and Judy Wills, Recorder

Joined by Polycom: Francis Achampong

Unable to attend: Kelly Austin, Peter Forster, Angela Pettitt, and Ken Womack

1. Ken Thigpen called the meeting to order and congratulated Albert Lozano as chair-elect for 2015-16. Lozano will serve as chair-elect in 2015-16 and will succeed Francis Achampong as chair in 2016-17.
2. Careen Yarnal, Associate Professor, Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management and Director Leisure and Culture Lab; Council on Engaged Scholarship, Co-Chair

Yarnal acknowledged her co-chairs Richard Smith and Barry Bram. The council is a unique partnership among the offices of the Vice President for Outreach/Vice Provost for Online Education, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Vice President for Undergraduate Education, which could lead efforts at the national level. The definition used for engaged scholarship is "Out of classroom academic experience that complements classroom learning." This could include undergraduate research, community-based or service learning, internships, capstone experiences, study abroad or study away embedded travel courses. Also lab-based program course work is considered out-of-classroom.

The council provides leadership and support. Their committee structure emerged as work progressed around specific challenges. Current committees are Expo and Symposium Faculty and Staff Development, Commonwealth Campus, Philanthropy and Development, Pilots, Student Tracking and Recognition, and Marketing and Communications. The council will soon add an Assessment committee.

Items which may resonate best with adult learners are internships and study abroad. Returning adults are already embedded in community and bring life experience. Also, the engaged scholarship initiative is working with several partners which may offer opportunities for a returning adult engaged scholarship pilot study with these partners. Because adults are embedded in their communities, there may be other partners who

might be cultivated for opportunities for returning adults, such as city councils, non-profit organizations, county agencies, and state agencies. There may be opportunity to develop intensive on-site week- or weekend-long engaged scholarship opportunities for returning adults at University Park, at the commonwealth campuses, or at the Penn State Philadelphia or Pittsburgh centers.

Commission members interested in joining a Council on Engaged Scholarship committee may contact Yarnal. The group suggested inviting her back next year for continued conversation.

3. Discussion of Access and Affordability Task Force draft report-Francis Achampong and task force members.

Achampong had circulated a draft report to members before the meeting. In fall the task force identified barriers and then developed recommendations accordingly. Achampong recommended for members to read the report cited in footnote 27, which references credit for prior learning practices at seven institutions and found that disconnects between PLA policies and practices appear to be a common roadblock to successful acquisition of credit for prior learning.

At an earlier Commission meeting, Dr. Weidemann had asked for rank ordering of the recommendations. Achampong noted that while ranking will be included in the conclusion it will also include caveat noting that the rank does not indicate importance. Initiatives may be identified in the first tier to build momentum.

Suggestion was raised to put sponsors' names next to items on the final report and to ask for progress reports on moving issues forward. Achampong noted that Renata Engel is willing to forward items to the Provost's office for including under funding for the Enhanced Educational Pathways committee's work.

The group discussed how to best get behind a degree completion program. There is need to consider not only what program to recommend but also to look at pathways across degrees we already offer, perhaps working on niche programs by campus. There is also need to be cautious of possible stigma that may attach to a professional studies degree in the marketplace. There was a task force working on degree completion programs in 2011-2012 and a presentation at the May 2012 Commission meeting. Suggestion was raised to revisit that group's outcome report as starting point to use as template. Recommended programs should embed adult-friendly elements such as PLA into each program. Our Access and Affordability task force report recommends Rice work with Directors of Academic Affairs at campuses. Competitor institutions already have degree completion programs in place.

Achampong will send sponsors the group's final report prior to our May meeting. To introduce the topic, Achampong will plan a brief overview to set the stage for a planned conversation with sponsors around the report.

4. University-wide updates on adult learner initiatives

In his role as chair, Thigpen sent congratulatory letters to fifty-two adults University-wide who received scholastic awards.

Daad Rizk announced that her Financial Literacy web site is almost ready to go live. The site will include online, interactive self-study modules and will contain reference information for resources. A final review of the site is set for next week and she will work with an instructional designer on the self-study modules. Rizk thanked the Commission for funding development of the site.

5. Committee and Liaison

- a. Faculty Senate Liaison-No report. The Senate has not met again since our March 18 Commission meeting.
  - b. Awards and Recognitions Committee – Diane Chamberlin announced that Hampton ‘Nels’ Shirer was awarded the 2015 Shirley Hendrick Award. Chamberlin, Thigpen, and Jordan will represent the Commission at the Faculty/Staff Awards luncheon this afternoon. Shirer will speak about his accomplishments during the opening general session at the May 12 Hendrick Conference. Wills will forward the link to the Penn State News announcement with more details with the draft meeting minutes.
  - c. Hendrick Conference Planning Committee –Wills reported on registration figures to date. The planning committee will send a registration reminder e-mail message later this week. Members are asked to distribute the message to groups with interest. The order of program is in development and will be shared with individuals who have speaking roles by the end of April. Work continues with our service providers on catering, registration processing, and facilities details.
  - d. Military and Veteran Support Services Committee – Sueann Doran reported that the committee is working on final details of its two Hendrick conference sessions. They are awaiting results from recent survey military students.
  - e. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Committee-Pat Shope reported that the group continued to work on their presentation for the Hendrick Conference. The group has begun to transition information to Michele Rice who will chair the committee in 2015-16.
6. The group approved minutes of March 18, 2015, as submitted.
7. Thigpen adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Judy Wills

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