



Commission for  
Adult Learners

The Pennsylvania State  
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**October 21, 2015**

324 Outreach Building, Innovation Park  
10:30 a.m.  
Minutes

Attendees: Francis Achampong, Chair; Christian Brady, Jamie Campbell, Renata Engel, Sandy Feather, Jared Hammond, Martha Jordan, Leslie Laing, Albert Lozano, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Brooke Repine, Michele Rice, Daad Rizk, Beth Seymour, Terry Speicher, Renee Thornton-Roop, and Judy Wills, Recorder

Joined by Polycom: Kelly Austin, Jo Anne Carrick, Ken Thigpen

Guests: Audrey Bonchack, Lead Admissions Counselor, Undergraduate Admissions Office; and Cathy Schwab, Director of Admission Service and Evaluation

Unable to attend: Pete Forster, Sonya Leitzell

1. Overview of Transfer Credit Tool, Audrey Bonchack, Lead Admissions Counselor, University Park

Bonchack demonstrated the newly developed transfer credit tool and compared it to the existing system. The new system has not yet been named.

Evaluations will be done by departments instead of Undergraduate Admissions. An offer of admission will process even if all courses are not yet evaluated. "XFRPEN" will show on summary when still pending and the student will receive messaging to provide backup information. After review, the request goes back to admissions for manual data entry. Requests can be returned to department if any questions remain.

The channel for notifications is still in development and reviewers will be trained in next few weeks. The system is expected to be ready next week. Members can send questions to Bonchack at [adp147@psu.edu](mailto:adp147@psu.edu).

2. Announcements and updates, Dr. Francis Achampong
  - a. Daad Rizk reported that work is in progress on the self-study modules planned for the Financial Literacy web site.
  - b. University-wide updates on Adult Learner initiatives
    - i. Ken Thigpen-Student veterans interested in exploring their educational

options in the Lehigh Valley will be invited to attend Education Leads to Employment, a free education fair, presented by A's for Vets (Academics for Veterans). Penn State Lehigh Valley will have a booth at the event to display the campus's resources for veterans. Other Lehigh Valley universities, colleges and trade schools will have an exhibit presence as well. Lee Anne Egan will present the keynote address, "Bridge from Military to School" and multiple speakers will then present on various topics. A student veteran panel and a networking session also will be held.

A's for Vets is an alliance formed by The Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council, consisting of institutions of higher learning in the Lehigh Valley, in order to better support veterans seeking education and support.

To answer a question about whether this allows a student to take credits from multiple universities under Act 33, Renee Thornton-Roop reported that a student may take courses at more than one school that apply to his or her degree. The school that will grant the degree is the student's "primary" school. All other schools are "secondary" schools.

The VA can pay benefits for courses taken at secondary schools. If the student is only enrolled at the secondary school (supplemental enrollment), the VA will pay for the credits taken at the secondary school. If the student is enrolled at the primary school and the secondary school at the same time (concurrent enrollment), VA will pay for the combined credit, taking overlapping enrollment dates into account. For additional information, go to [http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/job\\_aids/SCO\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/job_aids/SCO_Handbook.pdf) - pages 59 & 60.

- ii. Michele Rice thanked the Commission for supporting the October 1 CAEL workshop with ACUE. The session provided a kickoff for further implementation of PLA Task Force recommendations. Her next steps will be to meet with Associate Deans around reports and identifying what is feasible.
- iii. Francis Achampong-Before serving as a featured speaker during a Penn State Mont Alto Campus Symposium during the afternoon of October 12, Penn State Laureate and military historian Carol Reardon met with Mont Alto's student and faculty veterans and other campus administrators. She was joined by Dr. Francis Achampong, Penn State Mont Alto Chancellor; Capt. Ryan McCombie (Ret.), Penn State Trustee; Dr. Madlyn Hanes, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses and Dean of the University College; and (not pictured) Dr. David Christiansen, Associate Vice President for Common Wealth Campuses and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs of the University College. Hanes, McCombie, and Christiansen are joining Reardon at several Commonwealth Campuses to

meet student veterans, hear about their Penn State experiences, and learn how the University can best meet their needs.

iv. Martha Jordan will conduct annual meetings with campus Adult Enrollment Coordinators on October 27 at Penn State Greater Allegheny and October 28 at Penn State Berks. The meeting will include updates on the Commission's strategic objectives for 2015-16, PLA updates, student aid information, adult learner data reports, and campus updates.

c. The group approved minutes of September 16, 2015, with correction per Dr. Achampong.

### 3. Committee and Task Force updates

a. Awards and Recognition/Hendrick Conference Planning-Ken Thigpen and Judy Wills

The subcommittees finalized the call for nominations for the 2016 Shirley Hendrick Award. Messaging is slated to go out via email October 22 with November 30 nomination deadline. The award criteria and electronic nomination materials are available on the Commission's web site. The award recipient and select nominees will be invited to present their accomplishments at the Hendrick conference, to be held Thursday, May 12, 2016, at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel.

The group is considering an overarching theme of successful outcomes for conference content and is looking for recent graduates or others with stories to tell.

b. Prior Learning Assessment-Michele Rice and Terry Speicher

The committee met to review PLA web sites to determine content for creating the planned web site. Considerations include what would faculty, students, and advisors want from the portal and what channels to use for sharing information, including through social media.

Rice will work with UAO's new Director of Communications on the messaging to make sure it is shared broadly.

Veteran and Military Support Services-Renee Thornton-Roop

The committee sent emails to AECs and campus certifying officials asking them to review the spring survey results as a means of validating and confirming that items are true needs and not simply unknown resources that already exist. The requested feedback deadline is October 30. The committee will share survey results at our February 2016 meeting when President Barron attends.

Achampong noted that during their campus event described above, Kathy Swope, Certifying Official at Penn State Mont Alto, thought it would be helpful to have a meeting of COs University-wide. Suggestions were raised to consider combining with future AEC meetings or to provide funding to host them as separate topic-specific meetings.

c. 2015-16 Task Force-Albert Lozano.

The full task force has not yet met. In preparation, they have reviewed information on open textbooks. Lozano will work with the task force subgroups to continue planned conversations.

Through preliminary conversations with Dr. Hanes around degree completions, the need to pursue and look at roadblocks was raised. The subcommittee will look at peer institutions to see what is out there for comparison. Daad Rizk has already looked at Big 10 institutions to examine possible tuition structures on which to base a cost model specific to adults. Her findings indicate that all operate similarly with no cost reduction if pursuing a degree part-time. Some private schools however do address this. Engel noted that one complication is that financial aid does not align with a part-time model. Other issues include the role of faculty and advisers and that it is not cost-effective for an institution. This topic has also been discussed among the Digital Learning Steering Committee and Digital Learning Academic Council.

Achampong adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 18, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in 324 Outreach Building, Innovation Park. Renata Engel and David Christiansen will give updates on the work of the Enhanced Educational Pathways Committee and PASSS and Dr. Achampong will invite Barbara Dewey to discuss open educational resources.

Submitted by Judy Wills

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