



May 18, 2016

324 Outreach Building, Innovation Park

10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Jamie Campbell, Renata Engel, Jared Hammond, Martha Jordan, Leslie Laing, Sonya Leitzell, Albert Lozano, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Brooke Repine, Michele Rice, Daad Rizk, Renee Thornton-Roop, and Judy Wills, recorder

Joined by Polycom: Francis Achampong, chair; Kelly Austin, JoAnne Carrick, Ken Thigpen, and Terry Speicher

Sponsors attending: David Christiansen (representing Madlyn Hanes), Rob Pangborn, Craig Weidemann, and Marcus Whitehurst

Guest: Julie Cross, Analysis and Planning Consultant, Outreach Analytics and Reporting

Unable to attend: Christian Brady, Sandy Feather, and Pete Forster

1. Dr. Francis Achampong called the meeting to order, and he and members shared announcements,
 - a. By unanimous voice, Jamie Campbell was elected as 2017-18 Chairperson. He will serve as 2016-17 Chair-elect and succeed Albert Lozano as chair beginning July 1, 2017.
 - b. Recognize and thank outgoing members
Achampong recognized members who are completing their three year appointments, Pete Forster, Sonya Leitzell, Terry Speicher, and Ken Thigpen, and thanked them for their service. Beth Seymour is completing her one-year appointment as Faculty Senate Liaison.
 - c. University-wide updates—Jordan announced a new endowed scholarship named in honor of Christian Brady for his ten years of service as Schreyer Honors College Dean. Thornton-Roop provided an update on the search for the new Sr. Director of Veterans Affairs and Services.
 - d. Members approved minutes from April 20, 2016, as submitted. The approved minutes will be posted to the Commission's web site.
2. Adult learner data reports, Julie Cross, Analysis and Planning Consultant, Outreach Analytics and Reporting

Cross shared undergraduate adult learner trends for academic year 2015-16, noting that the data is pulled on the adult learner indicator and that report is full year fall, spring, and

summer semesters.

For the 2015-16 Academic Year, there were 18,409 adult undergraduates University-wide, representing 21% of the student population.

During 2015-16, the total number of World Campus adult learners surpassed number of Commonwealth Campus adult learners.

Cross shared information about course delivery methods used by adults broken out as face-to-face, online (web), and hybrid. As note, the data is impacted by when courses are offered.

The top five colleges of adult learners by head count are College of the Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Non-Degree, University College, College of Nursing, and Capital College.

Breakout by degree status was provided University-wide and for Commonwealth Campuses, University Park and World Campus. Fifty-eight percent of adults University-wide are Baccalaureate degree seeking.

Cross shared the top ten associate degree majors, noting that Business Administration, Information Sciences and Technology, and Letters, Arts, and Science account for 62%.

For the top ten baccalaureate degree majors, Nursing, Business, and Information Sciences and Technology account for 34%.

Cross provided demographic profile information by age, military tie, gender, and race ethnicity and provided comparison to 2014-15.

For students under 24 years old, the adult learner indicator is assigned for reasons other than age per the University's adult learner definition.

Military may be under-reported since individuals self-report.

She also shared data on full-time versus part-time status and GPA comparison between part-time and full-time adults and traditional aged students.

Members and sponsors discussed additional data that would be of interest for this report next year.

Looking at Pennsylvania adult learners overall.

Why such a high percentage of students are taking fewest credits.

Can data on Capital College be broken out? Julie—yes, can break out further for next year.

Looking into why gender skews male for University Park – Pangborn commented Engineering and Business as popular majors for male students.

Cross will provide a breakout by campus later in May. The campus report will be added to the password protected section of the Commission's web site on the 'History' page.

3. Annual Report, Dr. Francis Achampong, Chair

The annual report provided an overview of topics discussed, initiatives, and presenters for 2015-16. Achampong's report is available on the Commission's web page on the 'History' tab.

On behalf of the sponsors, Dr. Weidemann thanked Achampong for his leadership efforts for 2015-16.

4. Strategic Task Force Recommendations, Dr. Albert Lozano

Lozano reviewed the task force charge and progress on its two areas of focus: identifying an adult-friendly degree completion program and reining in tuition costs. He thanked task force members Christian Brady, JoAnne Carrick, Renata Engel, Martha Jordan, Leslie Laing, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Daad Rizk, and Beth Seymour.

The World Campus Integrated Social Sciences degree was identified as a strong degree completion option that is flexible with the amount of transfer credits accepted. The Commission hosted Diana Gruendler, lead faculty for the program for discussion at our March 16 meeting. The group would like to continue conversations with key faculty and hopes to learn how students use or plan to use the degree.

As the task force looked at solutions for reining in costs, Dr. Barron encouraged looking at creative solutions when he visited the February Commission meeting.

There is concern about the difference in costs for the same degree when comparing full-time and part-time tuition rates. The difference can be significant. This is important for adults, who on average take one credit less than their traditional-aged counterparts whether taking full- or part-time course loads.

The task force benchmarked other universities and could not find a comparable model with a part-time cost component. Research did find one which had flat fee after credits, and one institution that assessed a surcharge after accumulating 165 credits or 30 additional credits beyond graduation requirements. They also found that some PA state schools are moving away from flat fee model across board and using pay-per-credit regardless of credit load.

Lozano reviewed potential models to control costs for part-time/adult students including revenue neutral approaches per Dr. Barron's recommendation. Revenue neutrality could be realized by increasing enrollments, similar to the Pathway to a Successful Summer Start (PaSSS) program. For PaSSS, there is need for subsidy during the first year, but during the second and third years, pays for itself.

The task force proposed that a new 'regular part-time' tuition schedule could be used to assess tuition charges for students that are pursuing their education exclusively on a part-time basis. This could be an opportunity for Penn State to be at the national forefront for Access and Affordability.

The task force collected data from the Office of Planning and Assessment and University Budget Office. The data was received in late spring and is not yet fully analyzed.

The recommendations of the task force are below:

To continue the work started by the 2015-16 Taskforce by doing a deep analysis of the data obtained from the Office of Planning and Assessment and the Budget Office.

To carry out this analysis by selecting a small number of campuses with medium to large population of part-time students and review the impact of a regular part-time tuition differential.

Given the potential need for data specific to the selected campuses, senior leadership from these campuses should be represented on the Commission.

After completing the analysis for these campuses, it will be necessary to consider the students in World Campus.

Once these analyses are completed, and a clear understanding of the impact of the different possible tuition models emerges, the Commission can continue the discussions with its sponsors and the senior leadership at the University.

The task force report will be posted to the Commission's web site on the 'History' page under 'Data and Reports.'

5. Response and conversation with sponsors

Craig Weidemann thanked the Commission for its great work and accomplishments for 2015-16 and commended its focus on important topics. He noted that Prior Learning Assessments and Financial Literacy initiatives which are now University-wide each had beginnings in the Commission. Also the military and veteran student focus became integrated into the larger organization. Weidemann noted that there are many opportunities to integrate with larger University initiatives. He encouraged the Commission to continue studying ways to rein in costs and ways to use analytics to help students succeed. Weidemann suggested considering how to be key advocates of adult learners as part of the University's strategic plan transforming education. He also suggested considering how the University's engagement efforts could extend to adult learners.

Marcus Whitehurst suggested looking at ways to elevate adult learners as part of the University's development efforts, noting that the University Equity Commissions will be looking to the University's Development Office to raise funds for their initiatives.

Rob Pangborn noted that the Commission was instrumental in getting transfer courses evaluated. He shared that for members who have not yet seen an audit that comes from LionPath, there is significant improvement over the former system.

David Christiansen noted that adult learners are very important to the Commonwealth Campuses. Despite decline in residential enrollments, faculty are still working with adults through World Campus and blended courses.

6. Achampong adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. 2016-17 meeting dates will be sent to continuing members over the summer.

Submitted by Judy Wills

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