



PennState

Commission for **Adult Learners**

September 21, 2016

105 The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel

10:30 Minutes

Members attending: Albert Lozano, Chair; Francis Achampong, Ashley Adams, Jo Anne Carrick, Michelle Corby, Julie Cross, Renata Engel, Sandy Feather, Diana Gruendler, Jared Hammond, Leslie Laing, Michele Rice, Daad Rizk, Beth Seymour, David Smith, Patty Staskiel, Renee Thornton-Roop, Judy Wills, Recorder, and Kristin Woolever

Sponsors attending: Madlyn Hanes, Craig Weidemann, Marcus Whitehurst

Guests: Clarabelle Lin, Craig Weidemann's Administrative Fellow and Director of Marketing - Penn State World Campus; and Felisa Preciado, Madlyn Hanes' Administrative Fellow and Clinical Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management

Members unable to attend: Kelly Austin, Martha Jordan, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Brooke Repine, and Liz Wright

1. Dr. Albert Lozano welcomed attendees to this first meeting of the 2016-17 term.

- a. Introductions—Lozano asked attendees to introduce themselves and noted our five sponsors will attend as their schedules allow.
- b. Announcements and updates—

Michele Rice announced that the PLA web site launched in August. The Commission sponsored and funded the site. URL is <http://priorlearning.psu.edu> and there is a link to the site from the Commission's home page. CAEL announced the site in a news update and Rice has since been contacted by other universities.

Daad Rizk shared that some adult self-study modules up and running on the Financial Literacy web site, <https://financialliteracy.psu.edu/>. The modules are housed in Canvas. Her plan is to develop at least twelve modules. To date, the budgeting module has had the most visits, with over twenty thousand hits. The Financial Literacy initiative started with this Commission specifically to address needs of adult learners and Rizk's work has since expanded to help the overall Penn State population. Rizk has also been contacted by other universities for advice on building similar sites. This site was sponsored and funded by the Commission and there is a link to it from the Commission's home page. Madlyn Hanes thanked Rizk for her financial literacy efforts. Sandy Feather noted

Worthington-Scranton introduced financial literacy during New Student Orientation, and Jo Anne Carrick noted opportunity exists to share resources during first-year seminars and can provide contacts at the commonwealth campuses. At University Park, Rizk has booked thirty-five hours as part of fall 2016 on-campus freshman seminars.

Ashley Adams reported a full calendar of events planned by World Campus is available at <http://student.worldcampus.psu.edu>. Adams recently formed a student advisory board who recommend topics. For events which will be livestreamed, she encouraged members to share information broadly with any colleagues who work with adults. Adams noted that World Campus Student Affairs is willing to partner to share engagement opportunities in virtual setting.

Leslie Laing shared that the University will be participating in Military Appreciation Week in partnership with the community November 4-12. She noted that this year will be the 100th year of ROTC.

Judy Wills shared that the July 2016 Fact Sheet focused on student stories collected by the 2015-16 Hendrick committee and combined with data points presented by Julie Cross at the May 18, 2016 Commission meeting. Hard copies were provided to attendees, and the Fact Sheet is available for download under the 'About' section of the Commission's web site.

Craig Weidemann spoke on behalf of sponsors to recognize Francis Achampong's leadership during 2015-16 and to thank the Commission for its work in support of adult learners at Penn State. During the summer, the Commission's leadership met to frame the objectives for the 2016-17 term.

Renata Engel provided an update from a university Access and Affordability committee which will soon be meeting with the Provost to advance initiatives in way that captures its broadest vision. The goal is to reach all students their first year, connecting across all campuses and includes working through student mentors.

Marcus Whitehurst shared overview about the "All In" diversity campaign, which was developed as result of President Barron's commitment to diversity and inclusion. The "All In" theme developed to allow everyone an opportunity to move the needle around diversity and inclusion. The year-long events will kick off October 6 in front of Old Main and related programming will be offered monthly. At the end of the campaign, there will be a permanent sculpture to commemorate located near Old Main. Members asked about possibility of having a version at each campus as well as a digital piece World Campus could use virtually to connect online students to the initiative.

- c. Attendees voted to approve minutes of May 18, 2016, as submitted. The minutes will be added to the Commission's web site.
2. Commission committees and objectives for 2016-17

Lozano shared the committee structure for 2016-17, introduced committee leaders, and gave an overview of the 2016-17 goals and objectives:

Access and Affordability Task Force/Part-time Tuition Differential, co-chairs
Jo Anne Carrick and Beth Seymour

- Evaluate possible models to equalize tuition for part-time students
- Predict financial effects of each mode on campus and on the University
- Use Shenango and Schuylkill as test campuses for running the model through data analysis
- Consider scalability of models

Adult Learner Engagement Committee, Chair Jamie Campbell

- Consider strategies to better engage adult learners at Penn State
- Consider students taking courses online as well as resident instruction at campuses

Military and Veteran Support Services, Chair Renee-Thornton Roop

- Partnership with new Senior Director of Military Services office
- Expand on the work to date of the Military and Veteran Support Services with this new Office

Hendrick Award and Conference, Co-Chairs Francis Achampong (Shirley Hendrick Award Selection), Sandy Feather (Hendrick Conference program content) and Judy Wills (Events Coordinator)

- Re-activate Conference after cancellation in Spring 2016
- Keynote speaker same as scheduled for 2016, Dr. Joseph Cuseo, speaking around theme of student success.
- Presentations by and recognition of Hendrick Award winners from Academic Years 2015-16 and 2016-17

The committees held break-out discussions to set goals for the upcoming year.

3. Committee discussion summary-Committee chairs

a. Access and Affordability Task Force:

As continuation to the work from 2015-16, the group will look at creative options to support the needs of part-time students while considering budgetary realities. Identifying a revenue neutral model will be a challenge. Dr. Hanes recommended looking at full-time adult learners who are on scholarships, sometimes even stacked scholarships, to investigate trends: are there ways to enable a part-time learners to go to full-time to get a degree sooner?

The group will seek and analyze data and may define a dashboard to use as gauge and to measure progress and impact of any recommended new tuition models.

The group will reevaluate University PLA policies from an affordability standpoint.

b. Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC):

The group will address any perceived disconnect our adult learners may experience. They will also identify different ways to engage this population and develop best practices to make all students feel part of Penn State. The committee may combine forces with other University groups and give feedback to leadership

to enhance this goal and for benefit of future students and to create safe haven for adult learners.

The committee identified tentative actionable items for 2016-17: Recommending adult learner programming or webinars, talking to the current student body about preferences for co-curricular/extracurricular programs, and leveraging cross-collaboration across committees.

Engel suggested ALEC consider a session about translating a military resume to a civilian resume. Ashley noted that a Student Affairs leadership conference has addressed this.

- c. **Military and Veteran Support Services:** The group will leverage faculty connections and look at ways to educate faculty to increase use of existing services and create mentoring opportunities. The committee will also revisit surveys to look at what needs remain, This focus on faculty education and outreach will be until a new Senior Director comes on board, then the committee will transition to identify ways to best collaborate with and supporting him/her.

The group will continue work on recommended updates to the short-term leave policy. Beth Seymour will follow-up status with the Faculty Senate chair.

Hanes recommended working with Carol Reardon to continue conversations around topics identified during her meetings with veteran students during visits to campuses in her role as the 2016 Penn State Laureate

- d. **Hendrick Committee:** The committee will focus on updating the Shirley Hendrick Award criteria and communications plan for an October call for nominations. The committee will review the planned 2016 program to identify content to bring forward, and adding topics from the Commission's 2016-17 work and hopes to offer programming which will attract increased campus participation in the event. As part of re-focused efforts after cancelling the 2016 conference, the committee will include accomplishments of both the 2016 and 2017 Shirley Hendrick awardees.

- 4. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 19, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in 324 Outreach Building, with videoconferencing available.

Submitted by Judy Wills