



PennState

Commission for **Adult Learners**

November 16, 2016

324 Outreach Building and by Polycom videoconferencing

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Minutes

Attended: Michelle Corby, Julie Cross, Sandy Feather, Diana Gruendler, Jared Hammond, Martha Jordan, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Brooke Repine, Daad Rizk, Beth Seymour, David Smith, Patty Staskiel, Judy Wills, recorder; and Liz Wright

Joined by Polycom: Francis Achampong, Meeting leader; JoAnne Carrick, Kristin Woolever

Unable to attend: Ashley Adams, Jamie Campbell, Leslie Laing, Michele Rice, Rene Thornton-Roop

Guests: Holley Rochford, Director, Early Child Care Programs and Services, Office of Human Resources; and David Christiansen, Associate Vice President and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs

1. Francis Achampong called the meeting to order and lead introductions.

- a. Announcements and updates

Martha Jordan reported for Michele Rice that the bi-directional interface is not working yet from the LionPATH side and there are still over 2,000 courses waiting to go into LionPATH. Rice's office will be requesting 50,000 syllabi for the CSRS operation and has asked faculty to complete their reviews in CSRS by December 1.

Jordan also reported that the new re-enrollment process for adults in LionPATH will require them to complete an online re-enrollment form to capture necessary criminal background information. They will continue to not pay a re-enrollment fee.

Beth Seymour asked to have adult learners included as part a future Faculty Senate meeting. Martha Jordan will help arrange this and will include students from across the commonwealth campuses who could travel with their local senator. Ideally the group of four to five students will include a mix of military/veteran, World Campus, University Park and campus students.

- b. The group approved minutes of October 19, 2016, as submitted.

2. Pathway to a Successful Summer Start update--David Christiansen, Associate Vice President and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs; and World Campus Pathway to a Successful Start proposal, Martha Jordan, Senior Director of Academic and

Enrollment Support Services and Adult Learner Advocacy, Outreach and Online Education

Pathway to a Successful Summer Start (PaSSS) update, David Christiansen

This program is offered at ten campuses to address access and affordability issues and provide tools and resources to increase retention and on-time graduation. The program is in its second year. Christiansen distributed brochure with program overview, program components, program benefits, enrollment process, and participating campuses. A copy of the brochure will be sent to members with draft minutes. Additional details are available at summerstart.psu.edu.

The program is in its second year. The first cohort prepared to be mentors in their second year. The goal is to add three additional campuses next year and have up to 500 participants.

Christiansen also distributed an “Initial Assessment Results of 2015 Summer PaSSS Program,” which will be distributed with draft minutes. The results included information on retention, grades, credits earned, and math gains realized by PaSS students.

Liz Wright and JoAnne Carrick described positive experience with the program at Penn State Hazleton and Penn State Shenango respectively. Their students adjusted well and were likely to become involved with student organizations, and community engagement/service learning.

World Campus Pathway to a Successful Start (PaSS) Proposal, Martha Jordan

Jordan gave an overview of this proposed program, which was started to mimic success of PaSSS for World Campus students.

Pilot is slated for fall 2017.

Target audience: First generation, low income, and underrepresented groups. Also first-time adults and transfers with less than 30 credits.

Program highlights: Required non-credit course (time management, writing, how to use library, financial literacy, ALEKS, etc), personalized support, scholarship of \$1,500, and a manageable course load.

Planning status: Pilot in fall 2017 through spring 2018. Enrollment target of 30 students. New cohort starts spring 2018 through fall 2018. First cohort will mentor next, and so forth. First cohort will also have a non-credit course in spring with content including skills such as mentoring and leadership.

Projected outcome: Improved retention, higher GPA, fewer drops, higher engagement, and increased access and affordability.

Badging is being considered for the non-credit component.

There are some World Campus alumni donors who are interested in funding the scholarship for this.

3. Child Care Subsidy at Penn State overview--Holley Rochford, Director, Early Child Care Programs and Services, Office of Human Resources

Rochford gave an overview of the Presidential Task Force on Child Care at Penn State: Findings and Report to Rodney Erickson. President Barron supported all recommendations.

Recommendations include attending to the specific financial needs of Penn State student parents. Rochford is looking for creative solutions, for instance adult learners who need care at night during evening courses.

She shared list of Penn State campuses with contracted child care centers. The University operates Bennett and Hort Woods at UP. Centers at Behrend, Altoona, Harrisburg, and Hershey have contracts with the University.

She provided student parent profile data and child care cost data at the national and state level data detailing that nationally 1 in 4 college students are parents, and 43% are single parents. At Penn State, 5.75% of all undergraduate students have children and 27.4% of adult students have children. In Centre County, the average cost of child care for an infant is \$1,440 per month. 5.75% of all UG students have children. 27.4% of all adult UGs have children.

Rochford reviewed the Student Parent Child Care Subsidy Program, which is housed in the Penn State Office of Human Resources. Information and forms for student parents and child care providers and additional resources available at <http://ohr.psu.edu/child-care-subsidy>. In her role, she developed an Advisory Committee to Review Eligibility Guidelines. She is also looking at need for part-time care eligibility for World Campus students. She provided an analysis of campuses with the highest numbers of student parents.

Breakout of number of families receiving the subsidy was provided for years 2014-15 through 2016-17.

Student activity fees have funded the subsidy program since its inception in 1997. Additionally it received a grant for a few years. The program no longer receives the grant and needs to request funding yearly from UPAC.

Rochford's office will be reporting to Faculty Senate in December, including funding plan. She will share that report with CAL for ALEC discussion. ALEC may be able to assist with any policy recommendations going forward.

4. Committee, liaison, and task force reports

a. Access and Affordability Task Force expanded report—JoAnne Carrick and Beth Seymour

The committee distributed a handout reviewing three proposed options to mitigate the cost differential for students studying part-time. The information will be provided with the draft minutes.

Committee criteria for evaluating options consider revenue, advantages and disadvantages, impact on student debt, and impact on time to degree. The group looked at the Aspire program offered at Berks, DuBois, and New Kensington campuses for components to include.

The task force also discussed student services for students who do not follow the typical full-time, four-year route to achieve their degree to address needs related to academic advising and career planning as critical pieces at times when these students would otherwise not come for help.

The task force asked for feedback from members to be sent to committee co-chairs JoAnne Carrick and Beth Seymour. Carrick will send degree attainment data from Lumina foundation showing trend and tied to high demand jobs.

b. Faculty Senate Liaison-Beth Seymour.

The Undergraduate Ed committee will discuss the proposed short-term leave policy changes that the CAL Military and Support Services committee sent last year as an agenda topic at its December meeting.

c. Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC) Patty Staskiel

The committee will extend the survey previously sent to Directors of Student Affairs to the Adult Enrollment Coordinators network. Ashley Adams also solicited feedback from her World Campus Student Advisory Board to add to campus responses.

The committee is considering developing a template for increasing campus-wide support including adult learner retirement planning options since they may be starting careers at a later point in time.

d. Hendrick Award and Conference Planning

The deadline for Shirley Hendrick Award nominations is November 30 and the committee will circulate a reminder to nominate through its targeted communications channel. Extension will be considered based on number and strength of nominations received during the nominations window. Francis Achampong has assembled a selection committee and will invite our sponsors to serve on the committee or recommend a representative.

The program subcommittee reviewed the planned 2016 sessions and will re-confirm those with continued interest for 2017 and add breakout sessions as needed. The committee will invite Provost Jones to give remarks during a general session.

The overall program will run from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 or 3:30 p.m. to allow same day travel for campus attendees.

e. Military and Veteran Support Services-Diana.

Colonel Eugene McFeely has been announced as the new Senior Director for Veterans Affairs and Services starting in January. The Commission will invite him to a future meeting to introduce him to our initiatives and learn how CAL can support his vision.

Twenty faculty and staff responded to the volunteer opportunity to mentor veteran and military students, and twenty-five students have expressed interest in working with mentors.

The committee is looking at OL1700 for spring and considering a session to present at the Hendrick conference.

5. Martha Jordan adjourned the meeting.at 12:31 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Wills