



PennState

Commission for **Adult Learners**

February 15, 2017

324 Outreach Building (Polycom videoconferencing available*)

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

Minutes

Attended: Albert Lozano, Chair; Jo Anne Carrick, Julie Cross, Sandy Feather, Diana Gruendler, Jared Hammond, Martha Jordan, Brooke, Repine, Michele Rice, Daad Rizk, Beth Seymour, David Smith, Renee Thornton-Roop, and Judy Wills, Recorder

Joined by Polycom: Francis Achamong, Kelly Austin, Leslie Laing, Kristin Woolever, Liz Wright

Sponsors attending: Renata Engel, Rob Pangborn

Guests: Colonel Eugene McFeeley and Laurence Boggess

Unable to attend: Ashley Adams, Jamie Campbell, Michelle Corby, Paula Milone-Nuzzo,

1. Welcome and announcements

Michele Rice gave an update on the number of courses approved to date via the Course Substitution Request System. Rice's Council on Prior Learning Assessment is looking at automating paper forms and ID group to look over process to streamline.

2. Guest presenters

a. Colonel Eugene McFeely, Senior Director for Veterans Affairs and Services

Colonel McFeely started into this new position in January. The position was created to collaborate and coordinate various military and veteran activities University-wide. McFeely is looking at gaps and opportunities to improve services. His office will not take over or replace any of the services offered through Office of Veterans Programs

McFeely hopes to leverage connections to groups across Penn State for smaller campuses. He has participated in a recent CAL MVSS meeting.

Part of McFeely's efforts will be communicating what resources are already available.

b. Laurence Boggess, PhD, Director of Online Faculty Development, Penn State World Campus and Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership, College of Education, Update for OL3200

The OL courses are faculty training courses designed to develop understanding, skills, and competencies for effective online instruction. Dr. Boggess shared an overview of the OL 3200 course “Serving the Veteran and Military Student” which is re-numbered from OL1700.

OL 3200 is purposed to make faculty aware of unique circumstances of the military learner and help faculty to understand and make reasonable accommodations and encourage military students to work with faculty. It is a self-directed, cohort-based course. The next section begins at the beginning of March. Participants have thirty days to complete the course, and should take 2-3 hours to get through the materials.

Boggess walked attendees through the modules. Members who are interested in signing up for course can do so online at wcf.d.psu.edu. New session starts at the beginning of March.

Boggess also noted that the World Campus web site has a full page for Military and Veteran Services.

3. Updates

a. Draft of Forensic Report for Faculty Senate-Beth Seymour

The report is on the agenda for Senate Council discussion on February 21 with hope to get it onto the full Senate agenda for March. Seymour and Martha Jordan will recruit three students to attend with the goal to generate discussion to inform a larger report next year. The last adult learner report was from 2010 in partnership with CAL.

b. Members voted to approve minutes of December 14, 2016 as submitted.

4. Extended Access and Affordability Task Force report

Jo Anne Carrick provided brief background on the task force efforts to date.

Julie Cross reviewed a series of data report to provide details on student populations across the University based on full-time and part time status. The reports will be distributed with draft minutes: Part-time student attendance pattern analysis, Average part-time students per year by campus and by degree type, and average number of credit hours enrolled per semester for students as select campuses based on part-time status.

Members discussed the findings that the cost differential may be less than originally suspected. It may be possible to utilize block/portfolios more extensively, including expanding use of PLA from industry training programs into portfolio credit. Diana-Gruendler noted the need to be cautious and reinforce that PLA decisions rest with faculty.

The task force is considering how to approach analyzing World Campus. Renate Engel noted that the Transforming Education group is looking at how as University will manage and help students navigate a future time envisioned when all courses will be available digitally. Vision of the ‘One Penn State’ theme in how we interact will all Penn State

students. She suggested looking at patterns to some extent, overall of PT vs FT vs blended and what most benefits the whole University.

Carrick noted that the task force will continue looking at student centered service programs targeted to part-time students

Next steps for the group include a requested meeting with Provost Jones and others, including CAL leaders and sponsors, to make recommendations.

5. Transition discussion

Martha Jordan announced her upcoming retirement at the end of June. Members discussion around continued progress for CAL in 2017-18 and beyond.

Renata Engel has already spoken with sponsors, including Craig Weidemann prior to his phased retirement, for recommendations on how to move forward with the role Jordan had filled. Overall CAL is favorably viewed by sponsors. Considerations include what is working well, how we can improve, and how we can strengthen relationship with sponsors. CAL sponsors expressed interest in stronger delegation to CAL with two-way role and responsibility. Rob Pangborn noted that sponsors offices have changed in their scope too since CAL formed almost twenty years ago and there is need to have someone paying attention in each area and establishing strong partnerships to work together.

CAL will not become a President's Equity Commissions as they are aligned with Equity deliberately.

Engel tasked members to think about workings of CAL and looking at refreshing and updating the Constitution to strengthen its mission. Sponsors will be doing that when looking at liaison role. Members can send ideas to sponsors, Engel, or Jordan.

6. Committee, liaison, and task force reports (look at summaries)

a. Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC)

Michele Rice reported that ALEC continues to work on synthesizing results and themes from its fall 2016 survey of Directors of Student Affairs and Adult Enrollment Coordinators

Leslie Laing has developed her template for student focus groups.

The group continues to work with Holley Rochford on childcare issues.

b. Faculty Senate Liaison-Beth Seymour reported discussion in Outreach Committee for short-term military leave policy. The next steps would be for it to go before the Undergraduate Education committee and approve new language.

c. Hendrick Award and Conference Planning

The Shirley Hendrick Awardee has been selected and notified. Arrangements are in progress for presenting the award at the April 19 Faculty/Staff Awards Reception.

The Hendrick Conference program is finalized. Information has passed to our campus partners working on the online registration, web site updates, and communications. with registration forms. Target date to open registration is the

Monday after Spring Break. The planning committee will use the same email channel used for promoting Shirley Hendrick Award nominations.

d. Military and Veteran Support Services

Colonel McFeely joined their February meeting. Renee Thornton-Roop reported progress on the short-term military leave policy. The committee discussed need for an updated needs assessment for whole University and McFeely is taking lead on this. The group will look at veteran student debt as one future focus.

There is concern about no longer being able to identify military who are not using military benefits. How to do this in Lion Path is still in the works including how to proceed if students choose not to self-identify and how to edit later if they so choose.

- e. Nominating committee-Francis Achampong will chair efforts to identify a slate for electing the 2018-19 CAL chair. Committee members will be Brooke Repine, Kelly Austin and JoAnne Carrick. Any appointed CAL members are eligible to self-nominate or be nominated. The slate will be presented in March for vote before the April meeting

7. Lozano adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 15, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in 324 Outreach Building.