



**PennState**

## Commission for **Adult Learners**

**March 22, 2017**

324 Outreach Building (Polycom videoconferencing available\*)

10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Attended: Albert Lozano, Chair; Ashley Adams, Michelle Corby, Julie Cross, Diana Gruendler, Jared Hammond, Martha Joran, Leslie Laing, Brooke Repine, Michele Rice, Daad Rizk, Beth Seymour, David Smith, Patty Staskiel, Renee Thornton-Roop, Liz Wright, and Judy Wills, Recorder

Joined by Polycom: Francis Achampong, Jamie Campbell, JoAnne Carrick, Sandy Feather

Guests: Andy Reisinger, Andrea Dowhower, and Julie Fitzgerald

Unable to attend: Kelly Austin, Paula Milone-Nuzzo, Kristin Woolever

### 1. Welcome and announcements

Daad Rizk is the recipient of the Institute for Financial Literacy 2017 Educator of the Year Award and will accept the award later this month at the Annual Conference on Financial Education in Chicago.

Renee Thornton-Roop recently reached out to David Smith about the new policy on academic warning and suspension. There are two possible adult learner issues: students who have military benefits and drop into non-degree status may lose eligibility; and students who are past age 26 and receiving dependent tuition grant in aid. Smith will relay the issues to the Faculty Senate Undergraduate Education Committee.

### 2. Extended Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC) report-Michele Rice and committee

The committee is looking at ways to bridge the disconnect adult learners feel from the Penn State community:

The committee provided an update on Holley Rochford's childcare report. Rice noted that assistance is needed in building awareness of the Child Care Subsidy. We will add a link to the related resources page of the CAL web site home page.

The committee distributed a copy of the template Leslie Laing uses for adult learner focus groups and Laing described her process. Members recommend sharing the template University-wide with Adult Enrollment Coordinators and Directors of Student Affairs.

ALEC had surveyed Directors of Student Affairs and the WC Student Advisory Board to gather information on adult-specific programs and services and compile best practices for sharing. The survey also asked about what recommendations and resources are needed from CAL. Six campuses responded. Preliminary findings included: staff dedicated to adult learners, space dedicated to adult learners and military/veteran students, specific programming followed by assessments, existence of adult learner committees, representation of adult learners on committees, membership in Alpha Sigma Lambda national honor society for non-traditional students, and scholarships for adult students starting their first college experience

Preliminary Recommendations: Have adult learner representation in student government, host adult learner guided focus group, promote the child care subsidy for student parents, and share campus activities focused on adult learners.

Slides will be distributed to members with meeting minutes.

3. Access and Affordability Task Force update –JoAnne Carrick and Beth Seymour

Julie Cross distributed a data report summarizing part-time and full-time attendance patterns of World Campus undergraduates who earned a Penn State degree through the World Campus during the past three years. The report will be distributed with draft minutes. The report shows median and average number of semesters completed to graduate, breakdown of semesters completed by credit range, and summary of graduates with transfer credits. Up to 40% are taking a full-time semester.

The committee is considering ways to mitigate additional costs including financial assistance for final stretch before graduation. Julie will work on expanding the data to include Commonwealth campuses, Campus Colleges and UP. The committee will present final recommendations during the May 8 year-end meeting with our sponsors.

4. Discussion with delegates from the Task Force for the Future of Online Education and Role of WC, Andrew Reisinger, Interim University Budget Officer and Director for Budget and Reporting, University Budget Office; and Andrea Dowhower, Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs

Reisinger and Dowhower shared background on the task force and described its process of gathering information from various groups University-wide. Provost Jones charged the task force, which Renata Engel and Yvonne Gaudelius co-lead, to create a vision and framework for the future of learning at Penn State. The group is embedded in the Transforming Education pillar of the Strategic Plan and is aligned with the work of the Transforming Education Steering Committee. A vision of One Penn State: 2025 has begun taking shape and the group is shifting attention to generating guiding principles. There is University-wide representation on the task force. Albert Lozano is a member representing CAL.

After reading the vision, discussion leaders asked members to consider instances in which they have experienced feeling part of One Penn State, what about those experience

make if feel that way, and how they would translate those feelings to the learning experience or their own work. Where do we do this well? Where do we not do this well?

Then Reisinger and Dowhower shared some emerging themes:

- Support mobility of students when accessing educational resources
- Design admissions and enrollment support services for seamless integration
- Establish curricular paths for individualization while reducing complexity of academic choices
- Establish a coordinated network for lifelong engagement
- Address affordability as a key element in curricular planning
- Leverage diversity initiatives to reach new audiences

Andrea Dowhower recorded notes from the conversation to relay back to the task force.

5. CAL operational items

a. 2018-19 chair election—Candidate slate and voting process

On behalf of the nominating committee, Francis Achampong presented Liz Wright as candidate for 2018-19 Chairperson and opened the floor to additional nominations. Per our bylaws, Wills will send electronic ballots to voting members after this meeting, allowing ten days for voting with results announced at the April meeting.

b. Members voted to approve the minutes of February 15, 2017, as submitted.

6. Committee, liaison, and task force reports

a. Faculty Senate Liaison

There was a Forensic Session on adult students March 21. Two students joined the discussion, one from University Park and one World Campus student who came in by two-way robot. The Outreach Committee will take the information presented to move forward to next year. Using the two-way robot opened possibility of what is possible to include our students in all instances.

The short-term absence policy recommendation is moving through the Undergraduate Ed committee. Two questions were raised: 1) Does this address the number of times a student can take a course, and 2) What about students who have financial aid beyond VA benefits? The current practice is to advise that short-term leave may impact benefits. Affected students might be eligible for professional judgement appeal based on this policy.

b. Hendrick Award and Conference Planning—Judy Wills

Online registration is now open and the committee sent email announcement to various lists across the University. Members are encouraged to share the announcement broadly at their campus, college, or unit to promote attendance. Members should register for the event by April 21.

Members traveling from campuses for the May 8 dinner meeting and May 9 Hendrick conference should confirm whether they need lodging with Judy Wills.

- c. Military and Veteran Support Services—Allow veteran counselors to use Starfish. Looking at Morgan Center approach, may be able to use as a model. Col. McFeely did updated needs assessment at all campuses except WC. WC will be separate. 181 responses received to date. Looking at OL3200 to come up with version suited to residential use. Trying to partner up with CAPS to team veterans who have successfully transitioned to Penn State with new vets and on ‘Life Hack’ sessions. Plan to have a few veteran specific sessions a year: test anxiety, study skills, etc. David Smith explained interaction between Starfish and LionPath. Starfish does not know who military counselor is. Explained manual workaround currently used with Multicultural Resource center for reporting relationships. Process is challenging, looking for other ways to identify roles without having to feed into LP.
7. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Wills