



**PennState**

## Commission for **Adult Learners**

**April 19, 2017**

324 Outreach Building (Polycom videoconferencing available\*)

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Attended: Albert Lozano, Julie Cross, Sandy Feather, Diana Gruendler, Jared Hammond, Martha Jordan, Brooke Repine, Michele Rice, Beth Seymour, David Smith, and Judy Wills

Joined by Polycom: Francis Achampong, Kelly Austin, Jamie Campbell, JoAnne Carrick, Patty Staskiel, Kristin Woolever, and Liz Wright

Unable to attend: Ashley Adams, Michelle Corby, Leslie Laing, and Renee Thornton-Roop

Sponsors attending: Renata Engel, Madlyn Hanes

Guests: Anne Behler and Patty Sanford

### 1. Welcome and announcements

Our next meeting will be the evening of May 8 at the Nittany Lion Inn. It will be a dinner meeting with sponsors and will be the final meeting for our 2016-17 term.

There is a meeting scheduled June 5 among the Provost, sponsors, and Commission delegates to present the recommendations of the Access and Affordability Task Force. Remote attendance will be available for other members who would like to join the meeting. Judy Wills will confirm and share details on remote attendance.

The 2017 Shirley Hendrick Award will be presented to Dr. Avis Kunz at the University Faculty/Staff Awards Reception later today. Lozano, Martha Jordan, Renata Engel, Rob Pangborn will attend to represent the Commission. Kunz' nominators and guest will also attend.

Reading Area Community College and Penn State Berks recently signed an articulation agreement. Michele Rice participated in the process.

### 2. CAL operational items

#### a. 2018-19 chair election results

Quorum was met and the vote was unanimous to elect Liz Wright as Commission Chair 2018-19, she will start her role as Chair-Elect for 2017-18 and succeed Jamie Campbell in the role.

#### b. Members voted to approve the minutes from March 22, 2017. They will be posted to the Commission's web site.

3. A Team approach to Integrated Social –Diana Gruendler, Director of Interdisciplinary Programs Filippelli Institute; Anne Behler, Librarian and co-author of LA 201W; and Patty Sanford, Academic Adviser for Integrated Social Sciences

Currently there are 464 students in interdisciplinary majors, 69 of whom are Integrated Social Sciences (ISOSC) majors.

Anne Behler discussed the LA: 201W writing course. The course is described as “Intro to experiential learning, exploring experience through research, portfolio development” Behler shared a video portfolio that was put together by a student in the course.

Patty Sanford, a World Campus Academic Adviser discussed “Adviser Involvement in ISOSC.” She noted that the flexible nature of program necessitates that students take ownership of their education. Students in the program are often referrals from other advisers, and are seeking a way to finish their degrees quickly. LA201W and LA 496 are used as curricular bookends.

Sanford discussed degree requirements and her approach that encourages students to look at prerequisites and work backwards when planning.

Diana Gruendler noted that teams are forming to advise ISOSC students, unique case-based model.

Gruendler noted that for 2018, the portfolio course will be offered online during summer session and will run 12 weeks.

4. PLA Update—Michele Rice, Director of Prior Learning Assessment

Rice reviewed update from the 2015 University PLA Task Force recommendation report. Two recommendations from the Task Force were to implement adult-friendly PLA practices and to implement adult-friendly policies and practices including leveraging.

Rice has since formed a Council on PLA that is reviewing the University’s PLA policies and procedures.

Rice launched a PLA web site in August 2016, which was funded by the Commission.

She has been engaged in conversations with faculty and academic units about credit for prior learning.

There is a dashboard under construction to provide means of documenting and reporting annually on PLA activity.

The course evaluation process has been streamlined, with increased number of direct equivalents. One goal is to roll the Course Substitution and Review System (CSRS) out to all academic units. Steps are being taken to evaluate substitutions for use in the Transfer Course Evaluation Guide. Rice walked through a flow chart of the transfer course evaluation process.

Dr. Pangborn tasked a Transfer Student Working Group to make Penn State more transfer friendly.

There is continued expansion of Articulation agreements.

Future plans include continuing to increase access, promoting widespread understanding of PLA policies, processes, and role in student success, and communicate results and research.

5. Committee, liaison, and task force reports

- a. Faculty Senate Liaison-Beth Seymour: The short-term military leave request is on the Undergraduate Ed Committee agenda next week. She does not foresee any difficulty moving it through for fall implementation.

- b. Access and Affordability Task Force-JoAnne Carrick,

The committee examined data discussed at the March 22 CAL meeting. Consensus was to go full circle and begin to gather similar data about University Park students. The group is working on the final report and recommendations for the May 8 year-end meeting. There is a meeting scheduled with Provost Jones on June 5 to engage in dialog around recommendations.

The group also discussed support services including scholarship support during a student's final semester. Another group is looking at this and Carrick will forward their report to the Commission to review.

- c. Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC)—No new reports. The committee submitted a synopsis of their report given at the March CAL meeting for the May 2017 edition of CAL fact sheet.

- d. Hendrick Award and Conference Planning: Dr. Avis Kunz will receive the 2017 Shirley Hendrick at reception today. The selection committee received and reviewed a robust pool of six nominations from across the University.

The Hendrick Conference planning committee has received 114 registrations to date and has circulated a "Still time to register" message to encourage attendance.

- e. Military and Veteran Support Services, Diana Gruender. The committee continues to await determination on the short-term leave policy. The model that the Morgan Center uses for advising student athletes may be used for advising vets. The committee discussed asking for the creation of a version of OL3200 for residential campuses.

6. Lozano was among attendees leaving the meeting to attend the Faculty/Staff Awards Reception. Francis Achampong presided over the meeting after Lozano's departure. Achampong adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

**Next meeting: Our May meeting will be the annual year-end dinner meeting with sponsors, Monday, May 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Nittany Lion Inn.**