



Commission for **Adult Learners**

106 The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel

10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Attended: J. Campbell, Chair; A. Adams, A. Adolph, G. Chinn, J. Cross, S. Feather, D. Gruendler, C. Horner, L. Laing, E. McFeely, H. McGarry, B. Redmond, M. Rice, D. Rodgers, B. Seymour, P. Staskiel, R. Thornton-Roop, J Wills, Recorder; and L. Wright

Sponsor attending R. Engel

Unable to attend: R. Brown, M. Corby, A. Lozano, D. Rizk, H. Sankey, E. Shumac, D. Smith

1. Renata Engel, Interim Vice Provost for Online Education and one of our Commission executive sponsors gave welcome remarks to kick-off the 2017-18 term, which will be the Commission's 20th year.
2. Announcements and updates
 - a. Chairman Jamie Campbell asked attendees to introduce themselves, their campuses, and their work with adult learners.
 - b. Announcements and sharing adult learner initiatives at campuses

Andrea Adolph shared news about a group started to support and engage adult learners at Penn State Greater Allegheny.

Sandy Feather recently presented as part of group at the Admissions Fall summit during its first-ever adult track. Feather shared information about the Commission during her presentation.

Ashley Adams announced an online calendar of events created by World Campus Student Affairs. The calendar can be access via the URL <https://student.worldcampus.psu.edu>. Adams shared some details about upcoming programming, livestream events and services offered on the site. All programs and services are open to any Penn State student. Also a virtual HUB launched in Canvas, World Campus Student Center. It can be accede on the same site under *Get Involved*.

Renee Thornton-Roop announced upcoming Military Appreciation Month activities. Contact is Elysa Vancise, emv125@psu.edu.

- c. Adams moved and Sandy Feather seconded motion to approve the minutes of May 8, 2017 as submitted. Motion carried. Judy Wills will post approved minutes to the Commission's web site.

3. Commission objectives for 2017-18

The focus of the Commission for Adult Learners in 2017–18 will be the “holistic view of the adult learner as a matriculating student.” This focus will be based on, but not limited to, four points linking to the work that the action teams do within the Commission:

Tuition – Review how educational costs affect access and affordability for the adult learner.

Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC) and the Adult Enrollment Coordinators (AECs) – Strengthen links with our adult learners and the coordinators who serve them.

Charting the Course – Benchmark with other adult learner programs to ensure that Penn State is at the forefront of providing the best support network in higher education to facilitate success for our adult learner population.

Strategic Collaboration – Actively seek out relationships with other commissions and organizations across Penn State to create the best educational community for our adult learners.

The Executive Summary of the recommendations the 2016-17 Access and Affordability Committee presented to the Provost in June will be made available in the members’ shared Box folder.

Campbell gave an overview of the AEC role at campuses. Details are available on the Commission’s web site.

4. Committee and Task Force introductions—Campbell reviewed committee charges and introduced the 2017-18 committee chairs before. Attendees joined committee breakout discussions to set 2017-18 committee goals during lunch

- a. Access and Affordability Task Force-Co-Chairs are Beth Seymour and David Smith
- b. Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC)-Chair is P.Staskiel
- c. Hendrick Award and Conference Planning-Co Chairs are Albert Lozano-Hendrick Award Selection; Sandy Feather-Conference Program, and Judy Wills-Event Coordination and Operations
- d. Military and Veteran Support Services- Co-Chairs are Renee Thornton-Roop and Colonel Eugene McFeely.
- e. 20th anniversary ad hoc committee-Chair is Liz Wright.

5. Summary report from-Committee chairs

- a. Access and Affordability Task Force-Liz Wright led the discussion on behalf of co-chairs Beth Seymour and David Smith.

Following up on our visit with Dr. Jones, the group discussed the recommendation to conduct focus groups. The group agreed that this would be useful. More conversation regarding the process and next steps is needed.

Need to benchmark our conversation against what peer institutions are doing to support adult, part-time students.

Next steps: Designate peer institutions (suggest looking at BIG 10 schools plus other peer institutions) and assign individuals to begin research.

Financial aid: Discussed the situation in which a part-time student extends beyond the maximum number of semesters of allowable aid, and discussed how it might make sense to craft a proposal in which the University provides aid in the form of scholarship dollars and/or reduced tuition to help students complete their degrees.

Next step: Courtney Rodgers is looking into this question.

Discussed creating a "PaSSS-like" experience for part-time students approaching graduation in hopes that this would assist with completion rates. This discussion included conversation regarding a case-manager approach to these types of students.

Next step: See comment regarding Enhanced Educational Pathways (EEP) Committee below.

R. Engel joined the conversation and noted that the EEP committee is focusing on questions similar to those being studied by this group. She invited someone from Access and Affordability to attend an upcoming EEP meeting so that we could discuss our work.

b. Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC)-P.Staskiel

The vision shared for the upcoming year includes the following: to strengthen the relationship between CAL and the Adult Enrollment Coordinators; to develop an Adult Advocate Network that will ultimately have two components, one for professional staff and one for students; and, to investigate and identify student leadership opportunities in order for students to experience professional development. Strengthening the relationship with the AECs is the first step in allowing us greater opportunity to work on the other pieces in our vision.

Identified four points that we will address this year.

Implement focus groups at all campuses. We will work to develop an improved relationship with the AECs. We can share our focus group template, and suggest that each campus hold a focus group, gather information, and use the results to foster open communication between their adult learners and the campus.

Develop an Adult Advocate Network. We will investigate the possibility that by using Canvas we can start a network for all

interested parties to share best practices, concerns, and words of encouragement. This can lead to a networking session at the Hendrick Conference. With time, this network can be adapted for student use.

Promote Leadership opportunities for Adult Learners. We will explore opportunities that may already exist, the adjustment of student leadership roles for traditional students so that they may better fit the needs Adult Learners, and assist Adult Learners as they transfer their leadership skills from community and work roles to those as student leaders.

Investigate opportunities to develop branding for Adult Learners, using past examples as a starting point.

- c. Hendrick Award and Conference Planning-S. Feather and J. Wills. A. Lozano could not attend.

The committee begin work on communications to call for 2018 Shirley Hendrick Award Nominations with tentative deadline at the end of November. The award is presented during the University's Faculty/Staff Awards Reception in April.

The date for the next Hendrick Conference will be Wednesday, May 9, 2018. We will align efforts with the 20th Anniversary ad hoc committee on theme and complementary programming around CALs 2017-18 focus on the holistic view of the adult learner as matriculating student. Feather will reach out to colleagues for keynote speaker suggestions. The committee will consider opportunities to include more student presenters or co-presenters, including relevant scholarly work.

Continue to gather student stories to showcase during the conference and frame each as how they fit under one or more adult roles per Penn State's adult learner definition.

Continue to involve AECs in planning and promoting the Shirley Hendrik Award nominations and Hendrick Conference programming.

- d. Military and Veteran Support Services-R. Thornton-Roop, E. McFeely

Provide advocacy and support to Penn State student veterans/active duty military students by identifying and addressing best practices and policies.

Goals for this year:

Follow up/continue work on the implementation of the Military Short Term Absence Policy.

Focus on identification/creation of military/veteran oriented learning opportunities/initiatives.

Identification and implementation of effective data tracking methods for military/veteran students (retention/graduation/employment)

Researching possible implementation of a Veterans Upward Bound program.

e. 20th anniversary ad hoc committee-

Wright will document second ten years report of the Commissions accomplishments and initiatives from 2008-2018.

We will host a gala event the evening of May 8, 2018 and invite past Commission chairs and Shirley Hendrick Award recipients since 2009 when the Commission took over administering the award.

6. Campbell adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Wills