



Commission for **Adult Learners**

October 18, 2017

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

324 Outreach Building/

Zoom <https://psu.zoom.us/j/831320473>

Minutes

Attendees: J. Campbell, Chair; A. Adams, R. Brown, G. Chinn, M. Corby, J. Cross, S. Feather, D. Gruendler, N. James, L. Laing, E. McFeely, H. McGarry, B. Redmond, M. Rice, D. Rodger, B. Seymour, E. Shumac, D. Smith, J. Wills, Recorder; E. Wright

Joined by videoconference: A. Adolph

Sponsors and guests: R. Engel, Sponsor, R. Pangborn, sponsor, S. DeLuca Fernandez, guest

Unable to attend: J. Cross, C. Horner, A. Lozano, D. Rizk, P. Staskiel, R. Thornton-Roop

1. Announcements and updates

- a. After introductions, new members confirmed committee affiliations. Additional volunteers being sought for Hendrick, and 20th Anniversary ad hoc groups.
- b. D. Smith moved and B. Seymour seconded motion to approve minutes from September 20, 2017. Motion carried.
- c. Announcements and sharing adult learner initiatives at campuses

The veteran community is working to support students impacted by recent hurricanes. Short-term military leave policy update is going through Faculty Senate.

World Campus also had many students impacted by hurricanes and is working with them and anticipating there will be need for support around CA wildfires.

Worthington-Scranton campus is following the lead of University Park for upcoming Veteran Appreciation events.

N. James reported that Penn State received a grant, which covers marketing material to and for campuses. She will work with CAL leaders to identify prospective communications channels for providing marketing materials by end of the semester.

2. Guests

- a. Collaborative opportunities with Equity Commissions—Sonia DeLuca-Fernandez
Her office is responsible for supporting and administering the charge of the Equity Commissions including benchmarking. She shared copy of the charge with attendees.

There was a recent shift in the Equity Commissions' focus to an advisory approach for informing and making recommendations to President Barron's office. As part of this transition, some activities and programming will be phased out. Affinity groups may provide opportunity for individuals who do not see themselves in goals or charge to contribute in a different way.

Conversation with members:

How can CAL engage with Equity Commissions in this transition year?

Be involved: attend meetings, reach out to leaders, consider how to influence goals.

Help identify synergy that is assumed exists.

The Joint Commissions Committee (JCC) is separate and not tied to the Equity Commissions charge. JCC is planned by chairs of each commission, starting at a foundational level to build skills necessary for collaborative work.

How will data be supported?

Will be adding staff for this. Also works with Office of Planning and Assessment (OPA). Conversely, this provides opportunity to support OPA and what they provide to the larger University.

b. Transforming Education Executive Committee Co-Chair--Dr. Rob Pangborn

The committee's goals are taken from University's strategic plan as it fulfills the land-grant mission in a 21st-century context. Pangborn shared an overview of the background foundations related to Core Council work, the Budget Planning Task Force and other various task forces. The committee reviewed all 42 unit-level plans to distill consistent themes.

Three overarching goals and nine strategies developed, identifying existing and/or new groups to advance the strategies under the goals. These align with fundraising campaigns.

Pangborn shared a new vision statement developed by Task Force for the Future of Online Education and Role of the World Campus, which Renata Engel and Yvonne Gaudelius co-chaired. The goal date to have in place is by 2025. Five Guiding principles are important to achieving goals.

The Transforming Education Executive Committee will be meeting soon to present proposals received during first round of RFPs. The committee received 24 out of 60 from across the University. There will be three proposal cycles: current, Jan-Feb, and May-June. Next level for the current round will be advanced to the oversight committee and recommended to Provost about which to fund. Of the RFPs received, the committee will be advancing four to the next level. Future proposals which the committee advances may emerge from this round or come in during upcoming cycles.

Discussion and questions:

Transfer Credit issue presents opportunity to remove process barriers. Will enable us to use data around what students do with transfer credits when they come into Penn State, allowing us to be more strategic with data once process barriers are removed.

How will funded initiatives roll down and back up to implement?

Several CAL members sit on various committees. Ideas from task groups have other goals which do not involve RFPs. Look for those things. Remind those groups to describe what they are doing as it connects to Transforming Ed

The co-curricular piece around career is so important to adults. Make quality materials available and leverage relationships with industry partners. Adult learners work or have worked, and they bring this in with them. CAL might have opportunity to impact lifelong engagement for the adult learner.

What mechanism do we have to collect anecdotal circumstances when we try to enroll and keep adult learners? This may not be large enough to meet RFP requirements, so how do we collect these from around Penn State to start really serve adult learners?

Much of issue is having robust analytics to trace where students face policy barriers.

3. Liaison and Committee reports

a. Access and Affordability Task Force-Beth Seymour

The committee is just getting started and will begin to move forward with goals to keep initiative in progress from 2016-17 moving forward.

Dr. Engel will have the committee join an Access and Affordability committee she co-leads with David Christiansen.

b. Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC)-Michele Rice for Patty Staskiel

Identified four areas of work:

Focus groups with campuses. Provide training and offer suggestions

Develop adult advocate network. May create a Pride in Canvas: ALEC, CAL, AECs

Provide leadership opportunities. Participation by adult learners in Hendrick Conference: Possibly a Student Panel or Alumni Panel.

Engaging adult learners to feel like members of the Penn State community and looking at available marketing collateral.

c. Hendrick Award and Conference Planning

Reminder of conference date, Wednesday, May 9, 2018.

The committee's current focus is the Shirley Hendrick Award call for nominations.

The committee is also looking for themes and keynote speaker for the conference.

d. Military and Veteran Support Services

The committee is anticipating short-term leave update.

Several vets participate in the portfolio course and the committee is looking at a veteran-specific section.

R. Thornton-Roop started a working group to improve data and ability to track student success.

The committee is looking at a Veteran Upward Bound program and how to deliver it creatively via multiple modes

e. Faculty Senate Liaison—The Undergraduate Education Committee met and passed the short-term leave policy changes. The changes now need to go to Senate Council to get onto the agenda, possibly for the December Senate meeting.

f. 20th Anniversary ad hoc committee

A. Adolph will assist L Wright with documenting CAL's second 10 years.

The ad hoc committee will need additional assistance with program and event planning.

CAL members were asked to consider students and alums who we could showcase at the anniversary celebration and Hendrick conference.

g. Adult Enrollment Coordinator (AEC) network

CAL leaders plan to continue to bring AECs into conversation and provide collaboration opportunities.

Will invite AECs to become involved in all working committees and Hendrick conference. Goal is to fully engage by end of 2017-18 term.

CAL's executive committee will begin discussions to coordinate an AEC videoconference, possibly in January and possibly a second gathering or session this spring during the Hendrick conference.

S. Feather agreed to draft a message for sending the AECs to recharge the initiative and reaffirm the role and that the correct individuals are in it at each location.

One possible discussion item would be coordinated effort to purchase adult-specific recruitment lists.

Discussion on whether CAL should eventually sundown the current ALEC committee and replace with an AEC committee. Exec committee will discuss further and CAL will continue this discussion at future meetings. There was last an AEC committee of CAL in 2008-09.

Campbell adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in 324 Outreach Building, with videoconferencing available.

Submitted by Judy Wills