



Commission for **Adult Learners**

September 19, 2018
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
129 A/B HUB
Minutes

Attendees: L. Wright, A. Adams, A. Adolph, J. Campbell, G. Chinn, M. Corby, J. Edmondson, W. Fritz, D. Gruendler, R. Hart, D. Hochstetler, C. Horner, L. Laing, A. Maxson, E. McFeely, H. McGarry, B. Redmond, M. Rice, D. Rodgers, B. Seymour, E. Shumac, D. Smith, T. Spevak, P. Staskiel, R. Thornton-Roop, K. Wolgast, J. Wills, C. Anderson

Sponsors attending R. Engel, M. Hanes, R. Pangborn, D. Sims, M. Whitehurst

Unable to attend: H. Sankey

1. Wright Called the meeting to Order
 - a. Approve minutes of May 8, 2018
 - b. Motion -approved the meeting notes from May
2. Welcome—Renata Engel, Vice Provost for Online Education/Sponsor
3. Announcements and Updates
 - a. Introductions of all members
 - b. Location: update and to go by web site and future announcements for October, November in Hazleton, December in Old Main
 - c. Budget: lunch not provided; mileage reimbursement remains—capped at \$100/meeting.
4. Review of data shared at May 8, 2018 sponsor meeting:

Ryan – Presenting Data Undergrad Adult Learners (on CAL Website- PowerPoint in the Archives folder 2017)

1. Annual adult learner profile data—Ryan Hart, Outreach Analytics and Reporting (15 minutes)

Hart shared an adult learner profile update for the 2017-18 academic year.

The report covered total headcount and trends, undergraduates by degree status and by college, top majors, undergraduates by age, including subset under age 24 who are by adult learners by way of other facet of the definition, demographics by gender, race/ethnicity, FT/PT status, GPA comparison by FT/PT and adult/traditional.

This year's report added graduation data for adult students overall, UP, WC, and Commonwealth campuses.

Wills will arrange for the report to be added to the data reports section of the CAL web site.

Discussion ensued regarding additional data that would be helpful to the Commission as it focuses on recruitment and retention. Discussed the importance of understanding student stop-out timing, reasons such stop-outs occur, and possible interventions. Members also indicated that it might be useful to study further the relationship between adult student engagement and retention, with an eye towards further understanding how this information might be leveraged in order to design new initiatives.

Commission objectives for 2018-2019

6. Committee and Task Force introductions: Wright reviewed committee charges and introduced 2018-2019 chairs. Breakout discussions

a. 21st Century Access: Chair is Patty Staskiel

b. Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC): Chair is Ashley Adams

c. Hendrick Award and Conference Planning: Co-chairs are Tammy Spevak and Jamie Campbell

d. Charting the Course: Co-chairs are David Smith and Andrea Adolph

7. Lunch/Committee goal-setting breakout discussions

8. Discussion summary report out-Committee chairs

Adult Learner Engagement Committee -Ashley Adams:

The ALEC committee will focus on building upon existing engagement opportunities, such as the summer leadership conference, for adult learners. Emphasis was placed on building awareness among adult learners regarding engagement opportunities. The committee will continue efforts to engage with AECs by creating a Canvas group in which to share best practices and build community and by holding a January Zoom meeting. The committee indicated that it would focus on using data to guide its recommendations regarding future opportunities to stimulate adult student learner engagement.

Charting the Course Task Force- David Smith and Andrea Adolph:

Charting the Course will focus on benchmarking current Penn State practices against other adult learner programs offered at other institutions in order to compare current best practices and to ensure that Penn State offers robust support to these institutions. The committee will focus on identifying peer institutions as well as determining the scope of the benchmarking.

21st Century Access Committee - Patty Staskiel

This committee will focus on reviewing factors that impede persistence and retention among adult learners and suggest new practices to implement in order to mitigate the effects these factors have upon students. The committee discussed the importance of understanding multiple factors that impact student persistence, and noted that it would be good to know what other components connect to the adult learner. The group discussed the importance of understanding patterns of attendance, as well as learning more about the reasons students are stopping out and not returning. The group noted the importance of establishing strong communication plans among offices such as Admissions, Financial Aid, and Student Affairs, as making sure that communication is tailored to the adult learner. And finally, the group talked about creating talking points that would guide retention conversations with adult learners.

Hendrick Committee -Tammy Spevak & Jamie Campbell

The Hendrick Committee is focused on obtaining nominations for the Hendrick Award, as well as securing a keynote speaker for the conference, and requested that CAL membership submit recommendations if known. The committee discussed changing the format of breakout sessions, such that presenters would offer short, 8-10 “Ed Talks,” thus permitting more time for interaction with the audience. Other proposed sessions include a session on Disability and Accommodation, a session involving graduate students, and a student panel.

Concluding comments focused on the idea that Starfish may provide more analytics in future, as well as the role that iTwo may play in providing data to CAL

9. Adjourn meeting

Submitted by Chaustin Anderson.