



Commission for **Adult Learners**

November 14, 2018

10:30 a.m.-Noon

Chestnut Building, Hazleton Campus or by Zoom*

Minutes

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

Unable to attend: J. Campbell, D. Gruendler, M. Rice, H. Sankey, J. Wills

1. Announcements and updates
 - a. Approve minutes from October 17, 2018 Liz Wright set a motion and minutes were approved.
2. Guests
 - a. Dr. Gary Lawler, Chancellor Penn State Hazleton – Dr. Lawler welcomed the group to the Hazleton campus and shared the history and updates to the Hazleton campus.
3. Presenters
 - a. Penny Carlson, Assistant Vice President, Executive Director for Academic Services and Assessment, Office of the Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses – Ms. Carlson shared a presentation on Supporting Non-Traditional Students in Education Attainment (see PowerPoint slide in members' shared Box meeting folder – Adult Student Presentation). Her presentation included information on:
 - Pennsylvania Education Attainment
 - Pennsylvania Population Projection by Age
 - CC Adult Student Enrollment Trend
 - Increasing higher education attainment goals for non-traditional students
 - Commonwealth Campus Retention Facts
 - Commonwealth Campus Retention Initiative
 - Six-Year Graduation Rates
 - Six-Year Graduation Rates Comparison: Adult vs. All Students
 - One-Year Retention Comparison: Adult vs. All Students
 - Fall 2017 Enrollment – Commonwealth Campuses
 - Fall 2017 Enrollment – Commonwealth Campuses – Considering Only Adult Students
 - What we know about Commonwealth Campus adult students

- What are we doing to support our students

Questions/ Discussion:

In reference to slide 4, CC Adult Student Enrollment Trend; given that enrollment is down does this date include degree programs led by Commonwealth Campuses and World Campus? Are there opportunities to collaborate to assist in this area?

Can you talk about the loss/decline between year one and two? Are students ending up at other schools? Can we look at the numbers after six years and is it the same pattern after year one? What do you know about students as they come in is it cost? Ms. Carlson stated that it's a little of a lot, as opposed to an isolated one reason.

What are we doing to convey a sense of belonging? There seems to be a lot of initiatives, belonging needs to be part of the tradition. There is a lot of programming on campuses, ex. first generation buttons, pins, stickers. Regular first-generation meetings resonate well with students, in addition to adult coffee house and a studying mothers' group. There is incredible programming going on.

Do we have graduation rates any further out - eight years? The reports are currently for six years. A percentage of student may not make six years. Ms. Carlson reported that we think we are special – our smallness is special. We have strong skill expertise. Dr. Edmondson stated they hold a Monday Morning Huddle and provide individual outreach to students. They work with a lot of students who step away the first year. The staff regularly reaches out to keep them connected to Penn State. One on one relationships are critical.

- b. Tammy Spevak, Student Success Center & Student Disability Resources Coordinator and Co-Chair Commonwealth Retention Group – Tammy spoke about the Commonwealth Retention Group which started with three campuses (Abington, Brandywine and Lehigh Valley). After attending the National Symposium on Retention and the Fayette Student Success Institute all the Commonwealth Campuses are now onboard. There are currently 43 individuals participating. Recently the group discussed: How can we build retention on college campuses. The discussion included how students look at emails, LionPath, creation of toolboxes, and engagement. Are student with EPR's engaged and if not, using activities to help them. The group is all about sharing resources and what works on the various campuses. The group has three co-chairs and is currently looking for a Western Campus co-chair. Anyone can join the group. The conference at Fayette included breakout sessions on FYE, adults, engagement/programs, and teaching. Tammy will share the agenda from last year. The next conference will be held at the end of June 2019. The second day of the conference is for anyone not just Penn State.

Questions/ Discussion:

Is it possible to post a recording or announcements of the group meeting? Minutes are taken, and they can be put into Box. It was stated that the meeting time for this group conflicts with Admission Representatives.

The group is comprised of individuals from twenty campuses (except World Campus and University Park). Ms. Carlson noted it is a Commonwealth Campus effort, however, it is not restricted. Discussion on commonality about students, focus of our work together and the direction we are going. Dr. Engel asked is it possible for the Hendrick conference to be held there one year? What would happen if Hendrick went to a difference campus? It was also noted that the 2019 Hendrick Conference will focus on retention.

4. Liaison and Committee reports

a. 21st Century Access

- At the last meeting C. Horner gave us information on a bill passed at the end of October stating that in the Fall of 2020 schools must provide a summary of loan debt and disclose estimated interest before the award goes out
- Space in LionPath and Starfish to access information on transfer student records
- Providing an information sheet or resource list for faculty and professional advisors and student
- Discussed the ETM's and the transfer process and ways to provide this information early-on in the admissions/acceptance process and working with AECs.

Questions/ Discussion:

Can we have an adult checklist resource tailored to each campus with their information? This information can also be shared with advisors. It was stated at one time there was a checklist which may have been replaced with the online handbook. The online handbook needs to be more widely promoted. We need to utilize our existing technology. Put the checklist where the students already are. Is it possible to incorporate an onboarding process and add information to the acceptance letter/packet? Have an adult point of entry pamphlet in addition to financial. Should there be a specific advisor for adult population? It would be helpful. World Campus offers coaching thru Inside Track which helps with a variety of resources. Students receive an invitation when offered admission. Bill Fritz is happy to discuss further with anyone.

b. Charting the Course

- Looking at benchmarking and how advocacy is provided for adult learners.
- Narrowing in on schools and developing questions
- Thinking about how to align with larger initiatives
 - Peer

- Benchmarking
 - Current needs and support mechanisms
 - CAL standards
 - Discussion on future advocacy
- c. Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC)
- Looking at benchmarking and how advocacy is provided for adult learners
 - New and innovate ways to engage AECs
 - Space in Canvas to engage AECs and collaborate
 - Added Bill Fritz and Tammy Spevak to Canvas pride as TAs
 - Engage.psu.edu initiatives - looked at annual report how students and campuses are engaged
 - Request for adult learner's data for all campuses
 - Use funding to support income
 - Next month – study abroad
 - How engaging in study abroad - equity of grants are important
 - If anyone has students, exceptional students, please share their information so they can be invited by January to be a panelist
- d. Hendrick Award and Conference Planning
- A call for award nominations went out none have been received as of today. Several individuals noted having nominations in the works. Another reminder will be sent out on Friday, November 16. Final selection due by January 25th and the selection committee will be selected after nominations close.
 - Hendrick family invitations have been sent for lunch during the conference.
 - Continuing to work on conference agenda
 - Sessions will be one hour and 15 minutes
 - Student panel with lunch
 - Total of eight sessions (two sessions still need to be filled) World Campus Advisors, Smarter Measures, Chancellors, Veterans, Commonwealth Retention Group
 - Several Keynote speakers possible – discussions in progress. Possible speakers Goldie Blumenstyk, Scott Campbell, Vice President CAEL, Krista O'Neill, Retired Academic Advisor from a Community College.

Questions/Discussion:

Last year's Keynote speaker mentioned the fear adult learners have on completing the application. Suggestion on surveying the DEMs to find application struggle points. Suggestion on employer panel as a session. Can the conference be livestreamed and widely distributed? Very costly to stream, World Campus has streamed suggestion to reach out and ask Amanda Mulfinger.

- e. Faculty Senate Liaison
 - PLA revisions – will be discussed at Senate in December
 - Senate is revisiting FYE
 - Question legislation on military – credits consistent for basic training

- f. Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison
 - Nothing to add.

Data reports – AECs data reports will be given by semester. I2 platform close to completion with real time data.

Reminder: Next meeting December 19, 2018 Room 404 Old Main, University Park. Dr. Barron will be presenting. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. Please note parking at HUB fills up quickly, parking is also available at Eisenhower Deck and the Nittany Deck.

*Zoom dial-in options:

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

Or Telephone: +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 831 320 473

Or H.323/SIP room systems:

H.323: 162.255.36.11 (US East); Meeting ID: 831 320 473

SIP: 831320473@zoomcrc.com