



Commission for **Adult Learners**

February 19, 2020

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

324 Outreach Building

Minutes

Attendees: Antone Aboud, Andrea Adolph, Melissa Baker, Anne Behler, Audrey Bonchack, Sherry Corman, Julie Cross, William Fritz, Ryan Godbey, Charles Greggs, Ruth Ann Herstek, Jennifer Krempa, Avis Kunz, Leslie Laing, Helen McGarry, Karen Pollack, Brian Redmond, Michele Rice, Liz Seidle, Erin Shumac, Patty Staskiel, Tammy Spevak, Clayton Steen, Chris Stubbs, Annie Taylor, Renee Thornton-Roop, Jeff Warner, Kelly Wolgast, Elizabeth Wright

Sponsors in Attendance: Renata Engel

Unable to attend: Madlyn Hanes, Doug Hochstetler, Eugene McFeely, Robert Pangborn, Charles Patrick, Debra Rodgers, Haley Sankey, Damon Sims, Marcus Whitehurst

1. Anne Behler, Information Literacy Librarian, University Library Learning Services presented information on the services offered to aid adult learners, their work to create learning opportunities through the web.
 - Use of badges, academic integrity within the badge system. Can be a requirement for a variety of classes, anyone can take these courses.
 - Library offers research consultation, can schedule appointments and are available to students at all campuses. K. Wolgast asked if undergraduates are the target audience; Behler replied no. Library tries to match the consultant to the student making the best match possible.
 - Reviewed interlibrary loans and noted the availability for all. Library working to aid students with affordable textbook alternatives. See recent article in Penn State Today <https://news.psu.edu/story/606275/2020/01/31/academics/university-libraries-offers-workshops-open-access-policy-copyright?>
2. Jennifer Krempa, Executive Director of Strategic Planning and Administration, Penn State Outreach and Online Education, presented student success stories to remind us that when designing our strategic plan, we should think of our students.
 - R. Engel asked for suggestions to transform what we do or how we do it so that we design for student success.
 - A. Taylor mentioned free course, M. Rice spoke of a dashboard to show how the process leading to graduation takes place.

- A. Aboud stated that students do not know how their credits will be applied until after they are accepted, and R. Godbey noted that an alternative version of the recommended academic plan would be useful.
- K. Wolgast stated that nursing does have alternate plan.
- C. Stubbs noted Arts and Architecture is experimenting with other class schedules.
- B. Redmond noted PSU can be a leader getting federal regulations changed, as a revision of rules would greatly benefit adult learners.
- A. Aboud stated we must find different ways to engage people, and A. Bonchack noted that video messages in Canvas rather than just words can help with engagement.
- H. McGarry said much is available to adult learners in the non-credit area; how can we bridge that to for credit courses?
- M. Rice indicated PSU does not do industry certification evaluation, but we should consider doing this.

3. Announcements and updates

- a. December 2019 minutes still to be posted; Will review next month

4. Liaison and Committee Reports

- Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC) – J. Warner reported on a successful AEC Zoom meeting earlier this month, great enthusiasm and interest.
- One Penn State Moving Forward- B. Redmond noted the group is continuing its inventory of services and who is responsible for provision of services.
- Student Persistence, Experience, and Completion (SPEC) – M. Rice noted the group continues to gather information and evaluate.
- AEC Liaisons – all covered by the ALEC report.
- Hendrick Award and Conference Planning -C. Greggs reports things moving along nicely, costs for conference the same as last year or slightly less, keynote speaker Malisa Ayala is enthusiastic about presenting and has declined the stipend. Registration to open March 18th.
- Faculty Senate Liaison - A. Taylor reported on the discussion of continuing access to Penn State accounts for graduates.
- Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison – P. Staskiel reports that the Veterans Center is now open, 24-hour access to some areas, food pantry is available. Contact R. Thorton-Roop for a tour of the facility.

Next meeting is March 18 in Wilkes-Barre.

Meeting adjourned.