



Commission for **Adult Learners**

March 18, 2020
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Attendees: Andrea Adolph, Audrey Bonchack, Sherry Corman, Julie Cross, William Fritz, Ryan Godbey, Charles Greggs, Ruth Ann Herstek, Doug Hochstetler, Avis Kunz, Eugene McFeely, Charles Patrick, Karen Pollack, Brian Redmond, Michele Rice, Haley Sankey, Liz Seidle, Erin Shumac, David Smith, Tammy Spevak, Patty Staskiel, Clayton Steen, Chris Stubbs, Annie Taylor, Jeff Warner, Kelly Wolgast, Elizabeth Wright

Unable to attend: Renata Engel, Madlyn Hanes, Leslie Laing, Helen McGarry, Robert Pangborn, Debra Rodgers, Damon Sims, Renee Thornton-Roop, Marcus Whitehurst

1. One Penn State 2025 - Liz Wright began the meeting with a presentation of information, noting we must consider how this aligns with the work of CAL and how this can continue to support the collaborative efforts of others, especially the work we have most recently seen. She noted that at this time we are working on matters we have never considered.
 - a. Definition of One Penn State 2025
 - b. How it all began.
 - c. Process followed by Task Force
 - d. Implementation Plan
 - e. Vision
 - i. Five Guiding Principles

How can we help? Consider One Penn State 2025 as we make decisions, how our work supports One Penn State 2025, and how we can advance ideas that support One Penn State 2025.

K. Pollack – How can we streamline what students are doing? It's not always easy for students to navigate. We must consider how students can have enhanced student experiences.

D. Smith – What we are experiencing today is helping us to better recognize our challenges and consider ways to navigate these barriers. Advisors can help students keep free flowing communication.

C. Patrick – The past two weeks have helped move One Penn State 2025 move along well. Faculty is engaging with students now the way One Penn State 2025 is envisioning.

K. Wolgast – Can sense a lot of comfort now, giving exceptions to get through this time. But what happens after it is all over? Do we return to our rigidity? Today helps folks see alternatives, but will it continue?

E. McFeeley – Hope that we can leverage this momentum moving forward. A. Taylor sees good progress and there is optimism that these things will persist.

K. Pollack – We have turned the corner and have seen the transformative power of a crisis. We are being tested and rising to the challenge; we can only go forward.

W. Fritz – Now that we are being forced to do things online, this can help us make strides so that these transactions will continue to take place online. R. Godbey added that since the shift to online classes, many classmates are asking if this can be continued moving forward.

B. Redmond – We are experiencing remote learning right now; this is not online learning. Online learning is far superior to what we have now; this may be a first step.

D. Hochstetler – Noted we must monitor how students learn. D. Smith added that student momentum is critical. Most vulnerable students are more vulnerable now. There is concern about those who may want to drop a course. That could negatively impact financial aid. We must help students complete the semester. E. Shumac noted that this crisis is helping to bring people together for the common good.

J. Warner – The longer this extends, we can go into other of the five areas of One Penn State 2025, thinking long term.

B. Redmond – noted that the current situation calls for synchronous leaning, but this isn't always the best scenario. So, we must consider working with our external constituents, like PHEAA, to aid student success. A. Taylor reported that the university is working to make things clearer, and that President Barron is negotiating hard with PHEAA.

K. Pollack reiterated that remote is not online, so now is the time for all to gather best practices that we can take back to the classroom.

E. Wright asked what role CAL play can in supporting adult learners, especially at this time.

2. David Smith offered a presentation of the Starfish platform being used at Penn State and across the United States and stated that it is a critical tool to identify students who need support. It provides a method for proactive outreach, started by faculty who raise flags. It is a way to create and maintain connections with students. He will work with CAL to identify three or four AECs for collaboration as software is developed.

K. Wolgast noted that the graduate school has rolled out Starfish in the last few months; it is still a work in progress. D. Smith acknowledged that Starfish is available to all students, undergraduate and graduate.

B. Redmond – Is Starfish available to all advisors? D. Smith stated yes; it is available to general advisors, those who work with all students, and assigned advisors, those who work only with specific students.

B. Redmond noted that the weak part of Starfish is faculty who do not use; advisors can't intervene and help without the faculty input

D. Smith noted the critical nature of documenting in Starfish. Especially now. Stated the faculty use may be related to location and leadership encouraging the use of flags. Provost Jones and President Barron support the important of academic advising.

K. Wolgast – Not all faculty have advisees; D. Hochstetler reported that some faculty are afraid to write things in Starfish.

D. Smith stated that faculty must report on students in jeopardy of earning below a C. Faculty should not be concerned about what they write, no notes are more of a problem.

C. Steen – Noted some schools have directed outreach to faculty in the classes where students are performing poorly, or for gateway courses. This occurs at many online schools.

E. Shumac – Asked if there is a way to condense the number notifications for different flags for the same class; D. Smith replied that he would investigate this.

C. Steen – Observed that faculty need to know that raising flags early gets the resources out there early in the semester.

R. Herstek – Asked if faculty can raise flags now if students are not joining in on Zoom or Canvas. D. Smith stated that the faculty is encouraged to do this and to use flags throughout the semester.

3. Announcements and updates

- a. Approve minutes from December 2019 and February 2020, K Wolgast set a motion and minutes were approved.
- b. L. Wright announced that Doug Hochstetler has agreed to be considered for the chair-elect, 2021 -2022. There are no other nominations. An electronic ballot will be distributed.

4. Liaison and Committee Reports

Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC) – J. Warner reported on a planning for Hendrick session, how AECs communicate with students, and planning a follow-up to the February statewide AEC meeting.

One Penn State Moving Forward- B. Redmond noted not much new to report on; working on the yearend report.

Student Persistence, Experience, and Completion (SPEC) – M. Rice reported collaboration with ALEC, reviewing Complete Penn State initiative and success coaching.

AEC Liaisons – B. Fritz stated AEC updates covered by the ALEC report.

Hendrick Award and Conference Planning - C. Greggs reported today was to be the opening of registration but it has been postponed. Does the Commission want to cancel? Since the University has recommended no gatherings prior to May 15th, the conference will be cancelled.

Faculty Senate Liaison - A. Taylor reported on the discussion of a pass/fail grading alternative.

Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison – E. McFeeley reported discussion on the remote learning piece and veterans, housing compensation is on hold at the moment. R. Godbey noted without ability to work at his campus job he has no income. He fears he may have to take a gap year next year. B. Redmond stated this topic was also addressed at Faculty Senate, so there is attention to this matter.

Next meeting is April 15.