

April 21, 2021 CAL Minutes

**ELECTION UPDATE:**

Ruth Ann – Secretary for CAL

Jeffrey Waner – Chair Elect 2022, 2023

Patty, thanked everyone for their past and continued service to the Commission.

**Bi Laws update:** this summer to present to CAL. Any suggestions, pass on to Brian. There is a running list. Take a look and send suggestions to Brian.

**End-of-Year Reports:** Keep working on your teams and turn in your report.

**Team Reports:**

**Senate:** Annie: Alternative Support for students in lieu of Alternative Grading. PIE is a new committee looking in to this for recommendations relating to alt grade. We need a permanent solution to Alt grading. Looking to revise current Pass/Fail policy.

Report coming soon for SAT/UNSAT policy. Senate meetings are open all are welcome to participate. Join any time.

**AEC:** Bill F. No updates. WC last year launched a one-stop-shop – WC Central to help streamline assistance for WC students in all admin functions. A digital portal in conjunction with PS Go App to find resources – in the works.

**Veterans:** Change to federal law that now Vets held responsible for drop/wd class and now. Used to help not to have holds on student, but now Univ. fiscally responsible for this. Puts students a bit of a disadvantage. Worked out a 90 day window to assist student to help bridge the gap for repayment plans. Asked for reenrollment holds to be lifted if over \$200 for these students.

New Programming: UpWard Bound Initiative and looking at a Summer Bridge program for Vets only.

**Hendrick:**

Were at the end looking for registrations. Right now 97 with 40+ being presenters, committee. We ran in to issues with Simba for PSU attendees, but resolved. Practice session for presenters email went out today. Since virtual, we expect and can take last minute registrations. Spread the registration emails broadly. Fee raises to \$60 on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**One Penn State:** AL Survey out for over a week. Closes 4/23. Emailed 23,000, and under 1,500 responses. Resend it possible. Started to look at long answers. So far 100 dissatisfied, 100 neither, rest very or extremely satisfied with PSU and Program of student. Went out to all UG and Grad. WC were about half response. Will consolidate information. There is a campus option, so they can get reports. Following up with focus groups next. Asked about wanting more ways to connect.

**SPEC:** We discussed progress and spent a lot of this year on Completion this year. Next year moving toward engagement w/students. Will also use the One Penn State to gather information and ideas. Also, to help those working with adult learners. How do we help others know the information we have.

Save the date for Our Best Practices Conference <https://oneboldfuture.com/adult-learner-institute/>

Jeff: Encouraging AEC members to attend Hendrick and Gina's session. What is going on across campuses and University to collect. Looking forward to next year to look at "Raise your Hand" function ALs and encourage them to use this function. How will this impact next year.

#### **STUDENT PANEL NOTES:**

Provost was unable to attend today.

The adult students on the panel today introduced themselves and discussed some of the following:

#### **Best part of being a PSU Student:**

Flexibility and adjustability

2+2 student, took some time off, came back to WC and the flexibility is very helpful and important.

Faculty and staff understanding

Taking WC and being on a different time zone has been very convenient.

#### **Challenges so far:**

The longer time it takes being part-time, would be nice to see an overall plan for graduation, seeing light at the end of the tunnel.

Transfer credit help

Finances biggest hurdle – finding time is easier than finding money. Taking less classes due to costs Complete Penn State was an option.

Engagement not just w/peers, but more with faculty. Feeling disconnected to faculty, do not know what the faculty research or do.

Age gap and other adult experiences.

Networking opportunities with other adult students- need more changes to network (post-Covid)

Leadership conference was a good opportunity, wish there were more.

**Renatta: where would you look for or expect to see opportunities in engagement in projects and networking?**

Student: rely on communication in courses the most. Some have 3 emails to watch. Within the course announcements would be a good way to reach out.

Student: notifications that pop up on Canvas or campus screen. Emails are overwhelming. Too many emails. Canvas announcements needs to be brief with links. Clayton asked about "push notifications"

Student: as long as can opt out to what areas they are interested, more targeted. They would welcome that type of notifications.

Student: mobile and through phone instead of email would be better. Phones always with us. Opt in and Opt out so can get what interested in.

**What kind of engagement pieces would you like to see?**

Leadership conference and Hendrick conference

Events that do not take days...an afternoon or hours is better

In-person mixers (post-covid)

Meeting at other campuses within majors for mixer with faculty or discussion topics

Students want to feel a connection to PSU

WC students invited to other campus event just to feel more connected

Faculty and peer engagement, career development opportunities, bridge gap to students new career goals to get to next step or in to management

Homecoming events (post-Covid), have get togethers around these events

Networking!! Using class discussion forms to try to meet people with like interests and career goals – maybe outside classroom will also help

Leverage opportunities with AL Alumn

Conferences could be expanded

**Would a Virtual Student Center be of interest? Virtual Café w/daily topics.**

There is one in Canvas. There is a limit to numbers in Canvas, so some students cannot enter.

A virtual "hub" would be great with "offices" and break out rooms and could build student life in there.

Example: Someone to listen to presentations, and discuss projects, papers. – All interested in this.

Would be interested in that.

This would be great to discuss problem solving, have discussions, world issues, job issues

How to set up and how to market could be an obstacle

Tried in past, but now technology has changed and improved – so there is potential for trying again

**What would you want us to know?**

WC is doing a really good job already.

Reaching out to HS students to let them know about WC more, because some students do not want to travel or want in person. Some HS students do not know about this option.

A virtual hub could include a room for potential students w/admissions and other students to meet with and make a connection. This could be for HS students and ALs.

Give students the opportunity and platform to talk so we can get help. Open the doors of communication.

Engage with faculty and peers so we can learn from each other – we are all One Penn State.

**Kelly: Is some of your comments related to Pandemic?**

No, would not have changed. If we had in-person events again, it would help. From WC perspective.

No, did not know about what WC had to offer even after a couple of years. From WC perspective.

WC students have more understanding and can help their kids or other students adjust to online learning.

No, most of us can travel to campuses and Univ. Park, but some may not, so, it would not change my answers.

**Leslie: Adult Learner recognition and awards. What would you like to see?**

Student: unaware that we do this.

Student: want to be on the Dean's list

Student: dropped out because he couldn't afford. Look at current grades for rewards, not past grades if they are returning ALs.

Nominate Peers, can faculty? Some places i.e. nursing have 100s of awards. Who nominates?

AL Awards and AL Scholarships are available, but small compared to the good work of ALs.

**Thoughts on sites such as Keeplearning?**

Finding information is very hard – especially for Part time, AL

Option to put resources in Lion Path could help – that is where we go to schedule courses.

**Minutes approved; Antone motioned and Annie second the motion.**