

General Meeting Notes

Date: December 15, 2021

Time: 10:30 am

A. Welcome

B. Approval of Minutes

Approval motion: Antone Aboud motioned, Jeff Warner Second.

C. Hendrick Conference Update

D. Committee Updates (each month we will rotate who goes first for the updates)

-Adult Learner Engagement (ALEC)

Gina Whalen gave an update with Bidy on their work. They have invited each ALEC rep and have reps scheduled monthly to share. We plan to compile and share across the PS system.

-Student Persistence, Experience, and Completion (SPEC)

Michele Rice announced they are looking at data for persistence and engagement. They are looking at input from faculty and students for issues on barriers to create a working plan to make recommendations to those that serve adult learners.

-One Penn State Moving Forward –

Eugene gave an executive summary of the AL Survey. Presented highlights and our plans for upcoming focus groups.

G. Dr. Barron Comments

Commented on the experience of adult learners and the transformative experience students experience here at Penn State. He found the survey interesting and useful for planning. He sees it as all working together for the success of adult learners and getting them to completion. This seems on target and appreciates the efforts of CAL.

E. Hendrick Conference

Chuck Greggs explained the committee's work on moving it last year to be virtual for the first time. He explained how we expanded to the Big 10. One step toward the future. He is planning for Spring 2022 and expanding further with a speaker from California in the planning. We are excited for where it goes in to the future.

Dr. Barron has seen other wonderful opportunities while many areas had to transition to virtual and opening opportunities to a broader community.

Swaroop Edke was commenting from India. She had requested additional online opportunities for her adult learners.

F. Open Questions for Dr. Barron:

Students were invited to ask questions.

Tana McGhee-Wegner asked what he would like to see the new President focus on for adult learners. Dr. Barron feels the new leader feels strongly about how an education can help one rise.

Swaroop Edke noted she was very indebted to Penn State and promotes PSU in India. She wishes to thank everyone.

Kelly asked what the view is from the Presidents perspectives. Dr. Barron commented on faculty and staff having a feeling of agency. He feels access, affordability, graduation and retention is universal concerns. Penn State has more Pell Eligible students than all Privates combined at 19,000. This is what Penn State does. The mission of this school shows how this is more challenging. We are not experiencing this alone, many other Universities are also experiencing the same struggles.

Student, David Glass, commented on the lack of consistency and communication from class to class or often within a class. There would be last minute changes that adult learners struggle with. Most of the problem seems to be with adjunct professors. They do not seem to give the proper attention to PS classes. He wanted us to be aware. Dr. Barron commented that there is a review process and Renata Engel wanted to ask if he felt he had a path to express this. Renata would like to gather more details to address this within the academic unit. She

appreciates when students bring issues forward so that we can learn from students' experiences.

Antone Aboud: If there was one thing you wish you had more time to address, what would that be. Dr. Barron said one thing is difficult but persistent, consistent, no silver bullets are the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion. So many challenges and areas where things are slow. People are polarized more now. He feels he was able to take the University hard left. He does wish...when looking back he go Florida State back on track and unit them, and then he comes to Penn State and again a coach issue, fraternity crisis, state budget issues and a pandemic....he would have liked 2-3 years of extra money he could do something with. He feels good about the budget right now.

He commented how everyone is doing good work along with the stress of the pandemic.

Avis Lunz wanted to appreciate his responses. She values the University's support of employees taking advantage of the Grant-in-aid benefit. She has had employees able to complete degrees because of the benefit.

Dr. Barron thanked Avis and said he has heard comments about this in order to save money; on other hand he knows some take jobs they many not just for the benefits for their families. This means a lot to him personally. He said he was not willing to change that benefit, and has told the board he sees this as being a good employer. This helps us attract others to PS.

Renata Engel this commission focuses on AL in degree programs and continuing education. Are you thinking of other things or what should we think about as we consider learners for life. Dr. Barron things we should address the population who wish to continue education. With us keeping the same email and ID number we should make it easy to return.

Melissa Kunes thanked Dr. Barron on issues of access and affordability. Question is how can we continue work in this space to encourage donors for funding especially for adult learners. Dr. Barron said other think in ways of traditional scholarships, but need to consider all live issues from housing, food, working too many jobs, etc. These are concepts that donors can draw from in their own lives. Somehow this state needs to cross over to the mode where it sees the good that

the University is giving to PA. We need additional appropriation, if they could double it we could drop tuition. Our legislators need to know what we are doing. We need to educate others on what a students' life is like on our campus.

Dr. Barron wants CAL to know we can have a huge impact on other's lives.

G. Open Announcements/After Dr. Barron:

Kelly asked for reflections and business.

November Minutes Antone Aboud Approved and Jeffrey Warner second.

Renata indicated she could not always attend, but reads our minutes. She is encouraged by the work and anxious to hear about the focus group. Beyond the discussion what other groups would benefit from getting a copy of our survey data and generate further discussion. Students' voices have impact. The second item is this weekend is graduation and the work of the students will include adult learners and they are realizing their dream. People they see and those like in this commission are all part of this.

H. Adjournment 11:44am