

## **General Meeting Notes**

**Date:** April 20, 2022

**Time:** 10:00am

### **A. Welcome**

We welcomed Provost Jones to the meeting and introduced the members of CAL on the Zoom meeting today.

### **B. Approval of Minutes**

**Approval motion:** Minutes from last meeting were approved by approvals in the chat box from the majority.

### **C. Guest Introduction: Provost Nick Jones**

Provost indicated that not all Universities have a group like CAL. He thanked us for our commitment. He shared personal stories of adult learning. He indicated our adult learners are vital constituents. We serve many adult learners throughout Pennsylvania and WC. In the PS 2025 effort there are specific guiding principals for serving the needs of adult learners such as the seamless learning and advancing life-long learning.

He shared some data to reinforce. In US 80mil people who graduated HS, but have not earned a degree. There is an emerging and growing demand. Adult learners make up 1/3 of all college students in the US. At Penn State 15,000 adults university wide at 16%, at the Commonwealth campuses it averages 15% and NK at 25%, the second highest under Shennango. World Campus is at 78%. Other data was shared on changes due to the pandemic. General trends are a cause for a concern with high school graduates dropping about 13% since 2019. Moving forward strategies include a focusing on non-traditional students.

### **D. Hendrick Conference Update**

Chuck Greggs gave an update on how we envisioned it as a virtual conference. We have an exciting line-up this year with a quality Keynote speaker. Thanks to the commission we have a wide variety of speakers this year from many other Universities and areas of Penn State. We are already thinking about what next year can look like. The Hendrick award was just completed last week. Brian

Cameron won and will be joining the Commission next year. Brian Redmond thanked our sponsors for continued support.

Chuck added later that we are getting toward the end. We are at 83 enrollments right now. Keep the registrations coming in.

**E. Election Update:** Brian will put out the electronic ballot today or tomorrow and let that run a few days. By next meeting we will have the outcomes. Thank you for the many who agreed to run this year.

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

**-Adult Learner Engagement (ALEC)**

Gina and Bidy gave an update that they had reached out to AECs to invite them to the monthly meetings and find out what they are doing at their campuses. They are keeping track of what they are doing and collecting good ideas. There will be a panel discussion at Hendricks about this topic this year.

**-Student Persistence, Experience, and Completion (SPEC)**

Michele Rice reported that PSU participated in PLA boost, it showed that we were doing a fantastic job at supporting those students. The move was made to improve students' experience and reduce barriers. Worked with other areas to discuss increased transparency, credit by portfolio, consolidate information, ways to get the information out, and University timelines and costs. We continue to identify and work toward removing barriers for adults which will also help traditional students.

Provost Jones asked the groups meaning of persistence and Michele indicated it referred to keeping them moving forward toward completion.

**-One Penn State Moving Forward -**

Update given to Provost Jones on the survey. Data gathered, analyzed and moving forward will conduct 3 focus groups. They are compiling that information now and will report it back to CAL.

**Questions and Answers with Provost Jones:**

1. Do we have data about the effect of the Pandemic on our adult learners?  
Discussion was had about how the pandemic effected parents, veterans,

etc. It appears numbers are starting to return to normal for fall. The campuses took more of a loss than WC. Financial concerns, job loss, etc., has affected enrollment. Retention grants for completion have been very helpful. Different members gave examples.

2. If there was one thing to tell the Provost today to make a change and make a positive difference in the way we serve our adult learners, what would that be? Transfer credits, scholarships and complete in India was discussed with the Provost and he indicated he was happy to listen.

Provost appreciated the efforts and responses when we articulated concerns and opportunities to do better. He will take up the issues. This is an important population to Penn State as our view of impacting Pennsylvania as a Land Grant University.

### **G. Student Participant Comments**

#### **H. Sponsors' Comments**

Marcus Whitehouse updated us as a sponsor. He thought it was important for our provost to hear about the issues including the funding for adult learners. Marcus asked if there is a quick elevator pitch as to how we would describe our efforts and also to identify our milestones. Leslie Laing thinks that the AECs are a milestone of many. PLA and Financial Literacy also stick out as milestones. He asked if there are ways, as a sponsor, he could better support the success of the Commission.

### **I. Announcements Good for the Group**

#### **Open Announcements:**

Kelly Wolgast: Having the President and Provost join us is very helpful to elevate and advance our work. Thank you for the comments. We have good historical information and are working to improve our current web site. Kelly is also wanting to discuss with the sponsors how the Commission is all volunteer, and ideas for the future.

Kelly represented CAL at Awards ceremony.

Kelly stated she had discussed a virtual social event. From the questionnaire 18 stated they were interested in a Thurs 4-5pm. The Executive Committee will plan the exact date and we will select and send a calendar invite.

Renata Engel asked that others put together a few bullet points elements to share with the Provost so that he can discuss our issue of transfer credits further with others. Send items to Kelly W. as the most critical challenges.

John Holst indicated a new general education course is up for approval to be added for adult students to take: ADTED 100- Adult Learners in the University. Watch for additional information. It will include things such as writing and speaking skills, etc.

**J. Adjournment 11:57AM**