



Penn State Commission for Adult Learners

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2022

TIME: 10:30AM-NOON

Attendees: Jeff Warner, JeanMarie Jacob, Patricia Everhart, Whitney Zimmerman, William Fritz, Stacy Sekely, Michele Rice, Clayton Steen, Karen Forte, Eugene McFeely, Debra Flaig, Charles Greggs, Joanne Kelly, Gina Whalen, John Holst, Elizabeth Tisdell, Biddy Brooks, Melissa Kunes, Amy Rustic

Opening Remarks- Jeff Warner

Welcome from Jeff.

Opened Floor for any questions/comments/concerns- no one asked any questions

Provided quick overview of committees, roles of chair/co-chair in the committee

- Adult Learner Data Updates- Whitney Zimmerman- data liaison
- Undergraduate level information only
- Review of Adult Learner Definition
- Reporting done annually
- Adult Learner Dashboard is available on [Sharepoint](#) (Search Adult Learner Dashboard)
- 4 Academic Years shown during presentation
- Biggest decline between 2020-2021
- Decrease in adult learners is higher than decrease in overall traditional age students.
- CC steady decline (both adult and traditional students are down)
- UP remains constant (headcount remains steady for adults and traditional)
- WC also has seen a decrease over 4 years. (trends are inconsistent due to pandemic- temporary change of campus students due to change of campus)
- Whitmey can provide additional data if anyone needs it.
- WAZ107@psu.edu
- Libby asked if CAL is inclusive of Graduate Students since this information is focused on UG only. Eugene McFeely offered that he did include GR students in his focus groups.
- Jeff Warney echoed that GR students are a consideration since most GR students are adults. We don't have VP of Grad included in the CAL. Should the sponsors reach out to see if GR would like to be included.
- Nontraditional students should also be included.
- Clayton asked that we keep UG and GR data separate since the populations of these groups are very different. (EX; GR students have already demonstrated success)
- Jeff asked if Whitney can pull GR data- Whitney can provide all of WC data but not all campus data. Getting access to GR data may be tricky.



- Executive Board will bring this up to sponsors to see if we can get VP of Gr education involved in CAL.
- Melissa Kuhns stressed that we keep in mind how COVID impacted all data and numbers are skewed.
- Libby suggested that if we are going to focus on UG students we need to make that a clear statement. Jeff talked about non-traditional students and the definition of an adult learner
- Eugene included GR students since they have issues; Child Care, Finance, Life- Issues and Course Timing, Availability. Very similar to other students.
- We will try to get GR school support so we can have data we need.

Hendrick Conference

- Agreement to make it bigger, better and host every other year.
- Jeff spoke to Renata about this.
- Hendrick Family does not provide any monetary support-
- The Family is very supportive of making it bigger and a National Conference even if that means every other year.
- Goal for the committee is to start this process – how to make it bigger.
- Look into if C&I can run operations of the conference.
- Sponsors said they will assist with cost associated with turning this over to C&I
- No Conference this year- SP24 would be the next conference.
- John- asked if there were any funding restrictions (Jeff said he is not aware of any restrictions- IN the past we had money for keynote speakers)
- JoAnne- Focus on making it bigger and more National- how do we want to promote this to increase attendance – is some funding earmarked for promotion? Charles echoed that you cannot have volunteers with full-time jobs marketing this. C&I should include nationwide marketing plan. We have a year and a half to get this pulled together. We need to have a large audience to off-set costs. Does C&I have a marketing arm? Jeffrey W said that C&I does have a marketing arm and can share this information broadly and to the correct audiences.
- The Hendrick Award will still take place annually. They will be invited to the conference.

Jeff put all members into their break-out rooms for 20/25 minutes for discussion. Chair will be asked to provide summary after the breakouts. Going forward Chairs will be asked to provide updates at meetings. It is encouraged that committees will meet outside of meetings but we will always try to have time in the monthly meetings for committee meetings.



Committees

Hendrick

- Chuck Greggs-Chair
 - Ruth Ann Herstek-Vice Chair
 - Libby Tisdell
 - John Holst
 - Stacy Sekely
 - JeanMarie Jacob
 - Clayton Steen
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- Wanted to decide on date of conference – either May or Fall
 - Format of the conference
 - Call for proposal's timeline need to be considered
 - Reach out to C&I to see what services they can provide, timelines they need.
 - Setting up monthly committee meetings.

Adult Learner- University Engagement and Outreach

- Biddy Brooks-Chair
- Trisha Everhart-Vice-Chair
- Debbie Flaig
- Amy Rustic
- Jungwoo Ryoo
- Whitney Zimmerman
 - Talked about the committee in general and the direction we want to see the committee move
 - Working with the AECs- they all have different roles including working with adults- how much time can they really dedicate to adults. Want to understand how the AECs are working and how much engagement they have with adults.
 - What do adult students really need? Are they there just for education? They may not be looking for social/engagement – how to work with the AECs to find balance- what activities are suited for adults? Some of the social activities are not geared towards adults. Would they participate if something different was offered? Something meaningful for adults- wither university-wide or on the campuses. Also had a conversation about accessing data- how to get it.



Barrier Identification

- Michele Rice-Chair
- Brian Cameron
- Leslie Laing
- Karin Sprow Forte
- Renee Thornton-Roo
- Michael Vicaro
- Gina Whalen
 - Michelle- from what perspective? Admissions/retention
 - Brainstorm what they have seen and then prioritize what they will work on.
 - Michele will bring to this the Executive committee.
 - Identify and Decide on things to work towards change

Structure and Function of CAL

- Bill Fritz-Chair
 - JoAnn Kelly-Vice-Chair
 - Patrick Jones
 - Melissa Kunes
 - Eugene McFeely
 - Jeff Warner
 - Kelly Wolgast
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- Recap of Renata's charge- first increase visibility and what are the populations we need to get in front of. We need to listen and also share data
 - Advocacy – tie together nicely – there are groups that can help us- scholarship opportunities- what are we doing to get this information out? For example; how is development sharing this information?
 - AQ- they can help make changes in policy to make more friendly with adult learners.
 - Create structure for commission moving forward- to share good work and breath and scope that CAL has.

Jeff Wrap-Up

How do we make things better/ easier/ more welcoming for our adult learners- looking forward to how everything goes. Committees well on their way to getting things accomplished.



Sponsors' Comments- No sponsors present today

Announcements- Michele Rice- PLA application is almost complete to get it into LionPath

Adjournment 11:48AM (no later than 11:50AM)