



Penn State

Commission for Adult Learners

General Meeting Agenda

Date: April 19, 2023

Time: 10:30AM – Noon

Attendees, Bidy Brooks, Andrea Dowhower, Debra Flaig, William Fritz, Charles Greggs, Ruth Ann Herstek, John Dennis Holst, JeanMarie Jacob, JoAnn Kelly, Melissa Kunes, Leslie Lange, Eugene McFeely, Michele Rice, Renee Thorton-Roop , Amy Rustic, Stacy Sekely, Clayton Steen , Elizabeth Tisdell , Jeff Warner, Gina Whalen, Whitney Zimmerman

Opening remarks (Jeff)

Welcome to the members.

Congratulations to JoAnn Kelley for chair elect.

Congratulations to JeanMarie Jacob for 2nd year as secretary.

March Minutes Approval (Jeff)

Motion to approve- Bill Fritz

2nd- Eugene McFeely

All approved

Reminder that editorial changes can be made.

Committee Report Reminder (Jeff)

Committee Chairs are required to submit a summary report to Jeff by the end of academic year (May 31, 2023). The report should explain what the committee did over the course of the year. Jeff uses this information to create the end of year report that goes to the sponsors. (Due at the end of June 2023). This helps set goals for the next year.

Adult Learner Dashboard Update (Whitney)

Whitney provided an update on the adult learner dashboards and gave a presentation. You can view the dashboards [here](#).

You can view the presentation slides [here](#)

Bill Fritz asked if we had any data on National adult learner completion rates we could benchmark against.

Whitney is going to look to see if she can find any information to share back.

Jeff shared that unemployment rates, since they are low, may be contributing to declining enrollment. When unemployment is high, people are looking to upskill/reskill and go back for additional education.

Melissa Kunes asked if we had any information to see if adult learners are completing their degrees

somewhere else. Whitney shared that the data house only tells us if they transferred to another institution but not if they completed their degree or they stop out. We only know that they left Penn State and went somewhere else.

Michele Rice shared a [dashboard](#) that compares data to look at the population and the demographic cliff. Penn State, Temple and Pitt are not represented ,but PASHHE schools are. Michele asked Whitney if she is ever asked to share this presentation with other groups at Penn State. (Since there is a decline in adults and they are a population that could increase enrollment) Whitney shared that CAL is the only group that receives this information/asks for this information on an on-going basis.

The dashboard is open to any Penn State faculty/staff at any campus.

Chuck Greggs shared that many organizations including the government of PA are dropping the requirement for bachelor's degrees.

Jeff summarized that all these obstacles are presenting challenges for adult learner enrollment including the possibility of a recession.

Jeff suggested that the dashboard information be shared with campus/unit colleagues since it is such valuable information.

Jeff expressed his gratitude to Whitney for sharing the information.

Provost Meeting Reminder (Jeff)

Justin Schwartz will be meeting with the CAL next month (May 17, 2023) from 11:30-noon.

He will give a short presentation (15 mins) but then will open it up for Q&A (15 mins) . Jeff will be meeting with the provost 3 or 4 days prior to the meeting to brief him on CAL.

Please think about questions you would like to ask the provost.

The next meeting will address priorities at the start of the meeting, we will have short committee meetings and report outs.

Chuck G should plan on giving an update on the status of Hendrick Conference at the May meeting.

Jeff welcomed Andrea Dowhower (interim Vice President for Student Affairs)

Committee Meetings

Breakout Rooms Opened

Committee Updates

ALEK- Biddy Brooks

The committee is still working on getting a survey finalized to send to AEC's to determine what is needed.

Struggling with some of the questions to make sure they are global and not local to campus locations.

Moving forward – we will have a framework to work with.

Anticipate that the survey will go out by the end of April/Early May to meet the timeline of creating the report for Jeff at end of May.

Hendrick- Chuck

Received proposals from Conferences and Institutes and Marketing- will take to Executive committee for approval later today.

Once approved – get things started quickly.

Timeline is set

Call for proposal from September 1- November 1 with extension to December 1, if needed

Review/Approval of Proposals – when we get back from holiday break

Registration open right after the holidays

Please send any keynote speaker ideas to Chuck.

Right now, we don't have a theme, maybe the keynote would drive the theme.

Some ideas we discussed

Supporting adult learners in 2024

Adult learner success in 2024

Leslie suggested "revitalizing our commitment to recruiting and retaining adult students."

This might be a catch-all covering student affairs, admissions, financial aid, advising.

Will ask Neeli Bendapudi if she will attend to give the welcome. IF she cannot, move to the provost. Someone from Administration usually welcomes them.

Barrier Identification – Michele Rice

Barriers have been placed into categories.

Committee reviewed them today to determine next step.

Will cross reference with adult learner survey that was done last year.

Moving forward- determining priorities and setting strategies.

Andrea Dowhower joined this group and so the group had the opportunity to "pick-her-brain" from a student affairs perspective.

Where as an institution are we putting money and resources?

A summary will be sent so Jeff can start his end of year.

Michele shared that Leslie was highlighted on the [CAEL blog](#)

Leslie wanted to learn more about CAEL and went on the website to see if there was an opportunity to align with CAEL on Hendrick or maybe send some CAL members to the CAEL conference. She was following up on information that Michele had shared with CAL.

Leslie answered a survey on the CAEL website and CAEL followed-up with Leslie.

Encourage CAL members to go and answer the questions on the CAEL

Michele will share our Hendrick Conference with CAEL and will share it with other national organizations.

We discussed the need to have scholarships for adult/part time students- is this information housed somewhere? - this is an institutional barrier- we don't know where the money is.

Melissa shared how e-steward works and how we could identify adult students. It is possible to identify adult students. However, we need to keep in mind that there will be competition with other groups. (Engineering is working to secure monies for women in engineering as an example)

Melissa will work on this institutional barrier.

Encourage that the language can say full-time students or adult learner.

Development needs to be involved in the conversation as well.

Melissa will also look at any scholarships that are funded for adult learners.

Structure and Function- Bill Fritz

Meeting with executive sponsors to discuss next year's commission to see if they have any areas of interest

Discussed the lack of marketing for adult learners – there is a lot of marketing for traditional and online recruitment but nothing really for adult learners in general. Want to explore this next year

The need for robust membership- will review and update the by-law section about membership

Everyone should be thinking about who would be good contributors to the CAL

Jeff suggested that you let him, or Bill know if you have anyone interested in joining CAL

Sponsors' Comments – No sponsors present

Announcements- None

Adjournment