



# Penn State

## Commission for Adult Learners

### General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 21, 2024,

**Time:** 10:30AM - Noon

CAL Members: Bidy Brooks, Brian Cameron, Shannon Corkery, Trisha Everhart, Debra Flaig, Bill Fritz, Chuck Greggs, Ruth Ann Herstek, John Holst, JeanMarie Jacob, JoAnn Kelly, Melissa Kunes, Leslie Laing, Sheri Matter, Col. Eugene McFeely, Denise Poole, Esther Prins, Robin Redmond Wright, Michele Rice, Amy Rustic, Jungwoo Ryoo, Stacy Sekely, Renee Thornton-Roop, Michael Vicaro, Jeff Warner, Gina Whalen, Tracie White, Whitney Zimmerman

Attendees: Bidy Brooks, Trisha Everhart, Debra Flaig, Bill Fritz, Chuck Greggs, Ruth Ann Herstek, John Holst, JoAnn Kelly, Melissa Kunes, Leslie Laing, Sheri Matter, Col. Eugene McFeely, Matt Melvin, Jessica O'Brian, Denise Poole, Esther Prins, Amy Rustic, Jungwoo Ryoo, Clayton Steen, Renee Thornton-Roop, Gina Whalen, Tracie White, Whitney Zimmerman

Welcome

#### December Minutes Approval

- Motion to Approve – John Holst
- Second – Ruth Ann Herstek
- Minutes Approved

#### **Upcoming CAL Election Announcement**

- Jeff W. is managing the election.
- Nominations for Chair Elect or Secretary should be sent to Jeff.
- Elections in March; April announcement.

#### Roadmap for the University's Future – Recruiting Adults - Esther Prins

- Discussion on involving the Commission in engaging undergraduate students.
- Emphasis on balancing student portfolio and curricular flexibility.
- Strategies for inclusive marketing, fee waivers, and prior learning credits.
- Considerations on Scholarship funding and resource reallocation.
- President Bendapudi to address concerns in the next meeting.

#### **ADTED 100 - Adult Learners in the University – Esther Prins and John Holst**

- Review of course objectives and plans for a World Campus version in 2024.
- Marketing assistance needed, focus on advisor communication.
- Consideration for Digital Learning Cooperative (DLC) Integration.
- Potential substitution for CAS00 and ENGL15.

#### **Sponsor Comments**

- Focus on funnel management and tracking mechanisms.
- Streamlined application process for adult students.

#### **Committee Meetings/Reports**

- **Adult Learner University Engagement and Outreach**
  - Discussion regarding recruitment strategies and potential areas for improvement. Emphasis on revisiting past strategies and data analysis to identify gaps and opportunities for enhancement.
  - Admissions' involvement in providing strategy and data for enrollment and admissions processes

- was discussed as a potential avenue for improvement.
- Concrete plans not outlined; consensus on importance of refining recruitment strategies to better cater to adult learners' needs and preferences.
- **Hendrick Conference**
  - Registration is now open for April 8, 2024.
  - Actively working on finalizing conference agenda.
  - Keynote speaker: Matt Bergam.
  - Call for volunteers coming soon.
- **Recruitment**
  - Discussing around improving communication and conveying support for potential adult learners. Strategies include simplifying and streamlining services such as academic life coaching and mentorship to create a supportive community.
  - Suggestion to gather qualitative data through a pulse survey to better understand adult learner experiences.
  - Plans to create a list of recommendations, which will be finalized in the coming months.
    - Aim to package a full suite of resources and services into a simplified and streamlined access point, emphasizing safety nets and community support.
- **Removing Barriers**
  - Discussed solidifying recommendations based on identifying barriers over past academic years.
  - Efforts underway to compile recommendations for areas and departments responsible for addressing these barriers.
    - Involves comprehensive approach to addressing institutional, departmental, and specific unit-level barriers hindering adult learner success.
- **Strategic Communication**
  - Focus on preparing a document outlining key questions and concerns for the upcoming meeting with President Bendapudi.
    - Share individual and departmental efforts with JoAnn to ensure comprehensive representation.
    - Aims to articulate focus and charge clearly, ensuring alignment with University's goals and priorities.
  - Highlighted need for better access to data regarding adult learners' education journey.
  - Underscored efforts to promote Hendrick Conference.
- **Announcements**
  - President Neeli Bendapudi's upcoming visit.
  - Promotions for Hendrick Conference and First-Gen Support Conference.
  - Adult Learner scholarships open until March 15, 2024.

Adjournment (12:04)