

PLA COUNCIL NOTES

DECEMBER 6, 2016 – 10 AM-2 PM

In attendance: Steve Lodmell, Joel Sims, Bill Ryan, Jack Bieger, Dena Wagner-Fossen, Ron Larsen, Elizabeth Engebretson, Shawn Grove, Dylan Rogness, Susan Jones, Daryl Lee

Via phone: Cliff Coppersmith, Ann Ellsworth, Dena Wagner-Fossen

Guests: Kirk Lacy, Director, Industry Driven Workforce Development Partnerships and Dave Kelly, Veterans Affairs Director, MTDLI

PLA Council Chair Steve Lodmell opened the meeting and noted that two of our previous council members, Katherine Williams and Lexy Fisher have transitioned off the council. He welcomed Jack Bieger of MSU Northern to replace Katherine and Dylan Rogness of Missoula College to replace Lexy.

Steve spoke of the good progress we've made this year, noting that council's small size and the energy and initiative of individual members have helped keep things moving. The focus of this meeting is to set the stage for 2017.

Veterans and Apprenticeship Subgroup – MUS and MDOL- Kirk Lacy

Dr. Kirk Lacy spoke of work that the Veterans and Apprenticeship subgroup (Lacy, Jones, Kelly, Grove, Sims, Ryan, Bieger).

The group is looking at matching the ACE online evaluation with the 10 most common military occupations that Montana's veterans pursue and how we can improve the availability of this information for veterans and veterans' advisors.

Discussion:

Awareness exists at some campuses, but it is believed to not be widespread across the MUS.

Would Council be willing to recommend that the ACE guide be utilized as a resource and a tool for PLA?

Although many people already know of it, for those who don't, perhaps need more funding to get the info to the MUS units for the advisors to be trained on what it is and how to use it.

Consider if ACE recommendations coincide with MUS course numbers (CCN).

Recommendations:

- 1) The PLA Council recommends that all MUS campuses use ACE (American Council on Education) as the definitive resource for evaluating military credit and occupations. [ACE Military Guide](#)*
- 2) The PLA Council recommends that the MUS offer a second phase of training on how to use ACE resources. Campuses will ensure that key stakeholders who work with veterans will attend.*
- 3) MUS campuses are encouraged to share their evaluation work in a common MUS repository.*

IBEW, Outside Lineman, and other Union/JATC Apprenticeship Programs – Lacy

Kirk spoke of status and potential “next steps” for PLA collaborations with the union/JATC groups.

Want to expand the number of pathway options-IBEW has an evaluation by ACE that recommends up to 57 credits for ACE Electrical Training Alliance-NJARC Inside Wireman Analysis. Consider linking apprenticeships and college coursework simultaneously.

How do we factor in the instructional vs. experiential PLA when looking at apprenticeship work? Need to be careful in considering this idea in conjunction with NW Commission’s interpretation of the MUS policy. Reference made to NWCCU policy # 2. c.7. NWCCU Standard Two, which limits credits from experiential learning to 25% of the credits applied toward a degree.

Need to be cognizant of the amount of time-to-degree; not likely in 5 yrs. For apprenticeships, the outside lineman work takes three years; inside lineman takes five years.

Currently Montana Tech, MSU Northern and City College and MSU Billings are involved in creating apprenticeship pathways.

Linking National Guard service members with potential college paths. Want to consider apprenticeship training partnership with an employer while earning college credit.

Discussion on Academic Residency Requirements and PLA Credit

The UM Missoula PLA policy team sought input on the application of experiential PLA credit toward residency credit.

MSU Northern and Great Falls College MSU allow no PLA credit toward residency.

PLA Data Tracking Progress

Sue and Steve have been working with John Thunstrom, the MUS IT Director on the generation of a campus and system wide report of PLA use, utilizing the data that has been entered from the campuses. Early indications show that not all the campuses have completed their work.

John has added coding so we can identify veterans who have earned PLA.

Sue will share the report with Dena so she can help identify where further fine-tuning may be needed. Once this is done, a draft will be shared with the individual MUS campus PLA Liaisons and CAOs.

Workgroup Reports:

Transcription, Transfer, Tracking – group work suspended while data tracking is fine-tuned

Fees – Ron Larsen is preparing a draft Regents Item for PLA with an accompanying fee chart for the Board of Regents meeting in May. Will include general recommendations and dollar amounts. The deadline is January for submission of items for the March Board of Regents meeting.

Discussion regarding designing challenge exams and faculty remuneration/admin. charges.

Veterans Issues and PLA Outreach-Daryl Lee spoke of continuing interaction with veterans' resource personnel on and off campus around the state. If the USA Funds grant is awarded, further work will be done to expand outreach to communities, with a focus on directly reaching out to our veterans.

Apprenticeships and Credit for Internships – Bill Ryan shared information regarding work with Habitat for Humanity and internships. Also, he has been studying the potential for credit toward degrees for work done during apprenticeships (glaziers, etc.).

Plans and Ideas for 2016-17 PLA Council Work

PLA Based on Language Proficiency – R. Larsen (see attached)

Discussion around the idea and the various levels of proficiency in a foreign language. Department head in languages advocates awarding credit via Web Cape for the lower level language courses, if student demonstrates proficiency for a higher-level language.

How would this affect financial aid?

How would it affect residency? (If called PLA, credit would be awarded as transfer.)

Further conversation with faculty was recommended.

Other Ideas – **Please let Steve Lodmell and/or Sue Jones if you would like to bring forward other items we should be working on for 2017.**

