

# PLA COUNCIL

AGENDA-MARCH 10, 2016 – 9 AM-2PM

Fairmont Hot Springs, Anaconda

## I. Introductions and Welcome-Lodmell

*Present: Sue Jones, Katie Spalinger, Steve Lodmell, Ron Larsen, Garth Sleight, Lexy Fisher, Elizabeth Toenyas Engebretson, Cliff Coppersmith, Dena Wagner-Fossen, Shawn Grove, Daryl Lee, Ricki Jones, Bill Ryan, Alisha Schroeder and Lindsay Bennett- both attending in Katherine Williams' stead)*

## II. Housekeeping-Spalinger (travel forms)

## III. Announcements-Jones (Faculty Assessor Training/Handout)

- *Faculty Assessor registration still open for Bozeman and Missoula Sessions-March 24 and 25, 2016*
- *Suggestion posed: Possibly consider offering additional Advisor Trainings, as portfolio assessments are not widely used*
  - *If USA Funds grant is renewed, there may be funding for additional Advisor Training or Advisor/Faculty joint training*
  - *Steve suggested that as a council, we may request some funding from OCHE for the PLA Council since it is currently completely funded by grant money-this would allow for consistency and continued work after grant funding is exhausted*

## IV. Campus Meetings with Stakeholders – results (Handout)

### a. Discussion & Handout of Summarized Information

### b. Survey Topics and Our Work Going Forward

- *Steve led discussion regarding results compiled from data the PLA Liaisons collected on campus*
  - *Daryl and Shawn mentioned that ACE credits must be evaluated, but not necessarily applied-if excess credits are applied, financial aid is impacted*

- *We must figure out how to do the most good for our students*
- *Suggestions posed: Offer annual refresher training for PLA Advisors, create process map document for campuses to use, create training for campuses to use to familiarize themselves, contact Reserve/National Guard Liaisons, general centralized website for Montana veterans.*
- *MSU working with Extended University to develop some “just in time” training for faculty that need to use*
- *Questions:*
  - *How many attempts of PLA are allowed?*
  - *How will that be tracked?*

V. Annual Report to Board of Regents

a. Data

- i. Ability to track PLA data to by Fall,2016
- ii. MACRAO Recommendations to the Council on PLA Data Tracking-Dena Wagner-Fossen
  1. Transfer
  2. Transcribing
  3. Tracking
    - *Representation from MSU and UM, Two-Year and Four-Year*
    - *All CLEP, IP, AP, military etc. is already being treated as transfer work-may need to think of standardization of codes being used*
    - *Solution will work for both transfer in and out*
    - *Banner table, six digit code*
    - *Start/rollout date could be Fall 2016*
      - *PLA Council in favor of allowing MACRAO to proceed with determining coding with OCHE*
    - *Concern with two challenge definitions in the PLA policy*
      - *Dena suggested that the instructional credit base and three week deadline be removed and leave the experiential learning challenge exams*

- *PLA Council in favor of allowing MACRAO to move forward with this thinking*

- *Concern with 25% NWCCU requirement and what constitutes experiential learning*
- *Registrars would still like to request transcripts from all institutions*
  - *Questions regarding wording of Item I C*

VI. Institutional Policies & Guides (MSU Bozeman)-Ron Larsen

- *MSU had nothing in place, started from scratch*
- *Found a template and drafted policy*
- *Was reviewed by registrar and faculty*
- *Passed through Faculty Senate in January 2016*
- *AP credits have become a concern due to internal MSU policies, want to codify current practice to reflect current pass/fail requirements*
- *MSU policy states that students are not eligible for PLA until 10 credits are completed, in alignment to other MSU policies*
- *MSU policy addresses transferability*
- *Suggestion Posed: Put together a list of subject matter experts and/or individuals who have taken PLA training*

VII. Do we need standardized fees as a system?-(discussion)

- a. Can we correlate assessment and time required to fees?
- b. Faculty load and fees?
  - *Group discussion regarding the differences in fees*
  - *Students should be charged for the assessment of credits, not the number of credits*
  - *CAEL PLA Fee Table-displays recommended fee amounts*
  - *Sue will send Ron's "smart sheet" to the PLA Liaisons for feedback*

VIII. Promoting PLA on and off of Campuses

- a. Draft Manuals-for Students, Faculty, Staff – Sue
- b. Veterans Outreach – Daryl Lee and Shawn Grove
- c. Communication (website, print materials, social media, outreach, etc.)
- d. Faculty and Staff Role in Promotion
- e. PLA Newsletter

IX. Working Groups "to do" list

Examples:

PLA Policy – template or ?  
Research on Fees  
Research Faculty Compensation for PLA  
PLA as it applies to Veterans  
Marketing & Outreach  
Professional Development  
Expanding and Improving PLA Response from Students  
Communication & Newsletter  
Other?

- a. What do working groups look like? Where can we do some good in the first year?
- *Transfer, tracking, and transcription-MACRAO (Dena)*
  - *Research on Fees/Compensation-Ron, Cliff, Ricki*
  - *PLA as it applies to Veterans-Shawn, Elizabeth, Daryl Things may surface after Daryl conducts his visits across the state*
  - *Apprenticeships-Bill, Lexy, (Kirk Lacy)*
  - *Credit for Internships?*

X. Next Meeting

- *Individual Workgroups will convene via phone conferences*
- *TBD if another in-person meeting is needed*
  - *Doodle Poll will be sent for mid-late April*