

PLA COUNCIL

AGENDA-MARCH 7, 2017 – 10 AM-2 PM

In Attendance: Steve Lodmell, Joel Sims, Bill Ryan, Jack Bieger, Ann Ellsworth, Elizabeth Engebretson, Dylan Rogness, Susan Jones, Daryl Lee

Via Phone: Cliff Coppersmith, Dena Wagner-Fossen, Michael Schulz, Tamela Eitle, Garth Sleight

Guests: Kirk Lacy, Director, Industry Driven Workforce Development Partnerships, OCHE & MDoL, Erik Rose, Compliance and Workforce Data Analyst, OCHE; Missoula College UM Guests: Clint Reading, Associate Dean, Tammy Freimund, Director of Advising, and Anthony Becker, Adjunct Faculty

PLA Chair Steve Lodmell opened the meeting and welcomed Dr. Tamela Eitle, Interim Associate Provost at MSU Bozeman. Dr. Eitle is replacing Dr. Ron Larsen as he has been appointed as acting Chancellor at MSU Billings.

Update-PLA Policy 301.19 & Expanded Guidelines & NWCCU

PLA policy 301.19 and Expanded Guidelines has been reviewed by NWCCU. NWCCU recommended some edits to ensure that the MUS system policy had references noted to the NWCCU Standard 2.C.7 on PLA. NWCCU recommended that CLEP, DSST, UExcel, Standardized Exams and Course Challenge Exams be removed from the category that limits PLA credit to 25% of the credits required toward a degree. These changes will be taken to the Board of Regents as a consent item on March 10, 2017. If approved, Council asked how communication will be distributed to the campuses. Sue noted that it is important that campuses ensure they are in alignment with the MUS PLA policy and guidelines as NWCCU will use the MUS policy as the overarching guide to accreditation reviews. The PLA Council had no objections to the changes introduced in the newly revised draft policy and guidelines.

PLA-to-Degree Completion Pathways Update- Kirk Lacy & Cliff Coppersmith

Update was given by Kirk regarding progress on Inside Wireman and Outside Lineman JATC programs and potential expansion of opportunities to additional campuses. Handouts were shared of examples of agreements.

Cliff-this type of work is very hands-on. Registrar very much involved.

Important to look at what experience the student has had and make sure they're codified. Important to keep the close eye on quality.

Regarding credit limitations with an AA degree, residency policy varies at different institutions.

Group Questions and Discussion:

Q: How does the apprenticeship training look on the student's transcript (e.g. for MSU Billings)?

A: ACE takes NJAT-0001, for example, and breaks it down.

Some areas do not allow room for elective credits – works well for degrees, such as BSLS at MSU Billings. Student tradeoff – BSLS will allow for a 30-credit option (focus area).

Missoula College UM – Update on Efforts to Expand PLA-Clint Reading, Tammy Freimund & Anthony Becker

Tony's position was allowed three credits of release time in the fall, via funds from USA Funds grant, to work directly with faculty and students to navigate PLA at Missoula College. Results are as follows:

- 1) Four of five departments have agreements from faculty members to do PLA – 13 different courses identified as available for challenge exam or portfolio. 15 students took CAP100 as a challenge/ 80% successful.

- 2) Work done on a Machining certificate

Group Questions and Discussion:

Q: Seems like visibility is a bottleneck. Is this something that will go up on websites?

A: Envision a slow and steady progress via website.... need to be ready when information goes up on web.

Q: How can PLA be strengthened?

A: One area is through the Admissions process. Admissions can help bring balance to the disparity.

Elizabeth: ASUM has committee working on advising. Doing "best practices" document on advising. Now that UM is trying to revise advising process – does the prof have the knowledge that for example, a student is military, and can help apply to process? Would student self-select better if they are aware there is PLA?

EE feels that it would be more effective if advisors reached out to the students.

Q: What could the PLA Council or the larger U system infrastructure do to help grow PLA?

A: Keep track of the students – highlight them – showcase success

PLA Discussions Elsewhere

PLA Based on Language Proficiency (MSU Bozeman)-Tamela Eitle

Language proficiency – would impact approx. 110 students at MSU Bozeman. WebCAPE is used at MSU Bozeman. It is unlike the CLEP; students get placed into the level they show proficiency for; coupled with an oral proficiency demo.

Foreign Language brought this forward; advantage WebCape is cheaper and much easier to use (computer-based). WebCape is taken at the testing center; oral interview done with faculty. Only \$10 vs \$110 for CLEP; looking at process at faculty senate to get this process approved. Would get the credit for all the courses they surpassed; but they'd still need to CLEP those courses to get the credit.

Also looking at how successful these students are afterward. (tracking student success)

OPI Class VII Licensure-Native American Language Teaching-Erik Rose

Legislative Caucus – American Indian education caucus – focused on how we prepare teachers to teach on reservations. Class VII licensure – native American language and culture (seven areas have different requirements to go through to meet the Class VII licensure criteria). No way to assess statewide as PLA credit; if we're struggling to have teachers within this group – at least why not get them Class II licensure, for example? Is there any way to articulate those experiences to college credit?

Issue – one to one/single reservation to single university rather than wholesale. Much is oral history and cultural setting-type history.

Looking at oral and written communication as PLA. Demonstrate that you are proficient in the oral and written language as well as pedagogy. Issue is having a degree that allows one to teach. The younger people that are seeking a Class VII licensure may have the language but not the degree.

Class VII would only allow them to teach native language and culture courses.

Plans and Ideas for 2016-17 PLA Council Work

USA Funds Grant Opportunities-Jones

OCHE was successful in receiving USA Funds short-term grant to support PLA for Veterans and Adult Students, phase II. Grant initiatives include:

- 1) A second iteration of outreach to veterans, veteran students, and veterans support agencies in the state. Concentration will be narrowed to locations with a higher concentration of veterans.
- 2) Support for PLA Council meetings to complete statewide policy implementation.
- 3) Second round of financial literacy sessions in areas of identified need. Audience is veterans, adult students, Native American students, and first-generation college students. A component of the sessions will include information regarding PLA opportunities with a goal of helping students save time and money toward a degree.
- 4) Potentially add two to three additional campuses to the Montana PLA FinishFaster web platform.
- 5) Professional development offered to campus PLA faculty and staff.
- 6) Enhance PLA web page(s).
- 7) Create marketing and advertising campaigns to drive more students to PLA web page(s), and to Veterans Outreach sessions, and to Financial Literacy sessions.

Workgroup Reports

Transcription, Transfer, Tracking-Dena Wagner Fossen

Dena- pulled first report; some campuses used old codes; all campuses not doing as consistently as we thought

Veterans being coded; must be careful as some veterans' numbers are so small that the student can be identified. Can only track veterans who are receiving benefits.

Fees

Memo came from DC Cech on fee submission; guidelines

Veterans Issues and PLA Outreach

Job Service Offices and VA offices need to be engaged; Dylan and Daryl have been meeting about how to evaluate JSTs – best way to meet vets needs and outreach is via a video; a training video for advisors to look at JSTs.

Daryl would like input from folks who have ideas for his travels. Important to reinforce the connections we've made.

Elizabeth – student senators to do beta testing on what veterans know about PLA credit.

Reaching out to veterans at transition training time.

MUS needs to create partnerships for tracks from military to college?

Apprenticeships and Credit for Internships (outside of work noted in Item V)

Getting away from the work or college choice; helping students/workers to consider combining both via the apprenticeship work.

Upcoming Transitions and Next Meeting

Sue Jones will be retiring June 30, 2017. Steve Lodmell is considering stepping down as chair sometime later. Potential meeting in the summer.

