

Annual Report (2020 – 2021)
Adult Learning and Executive Education Committee

Committee members: Virginia Hoy (CHSS), Robert Pasnak (CHSS), Ioulia Rytikova (VSE), Kamaljeet Sanghera (VSE), Evelyn Tomaszewski (CHHS), Chair

Charge: To actively consult with the Provost's Office and the Office of Continuing Professional Education to support, evaluate and refine programs in the areas of adult learning and executive education, including program development, admission policies, awareness programs, online resources, program evaluation, and degree completion initiatives.

Report

The committee met with Brett Josephson, Office of Executive Education, and Marc Austin, Office of Continuing and Professional Education in Fall 2020. Brett and Marc provided an overview of their respective programs, including a review of past successes and current initiatives. Each identified how their programs are promoted/marketed and discussed opportunities for the Committee to support the work of each program. Brett highlighted the development of a Policy Document or Handbook for Faculty. He also discussed the role of the committee to identify connections that can 'break silos' (e.g., expanding POC in our units, use of alumni and outreach to senior leaders in organizations external to Mason). Marc presented an overview of Micro Credentials, the idea of partnering micro credentials with current students, and the importance and need to learn what Faculty would like to access re: professional education and life-long learning.

To learn about the range of issues that may fall within the committee charge, the Committee also met with Kurt Lazaroff, Director of Academic Services, Bachelor of Individualized Study. He highlighted the impressive completion rates of graduates (80%), the high percentage of students who onto graduate programs (40%), examples of how BIS graduates have used the degree for career advancement and how BIS aligns with Mason on-campus and on-line programs. In April 2021, Kurt reported that CHSS approved a Mason online degree program and OVN (online Virginia network) that should launch in fall 2021. Pathways currently being designed combine leadership, communication, and an industry/discipline focus (Data Analysis, Healthcare Admin, Science Communication, and Government Contracting).

In Spring 2021, members determined we need clarity regarding our consultative role. We are scheduled to meet with Renate Guilford, Associate Provost, Academic Administration and Marc Austin in April 2021. The Committee is currently seeking information as to the availability of a central location (or mapping) of Adult Programs at Mason.

Addendum

1. The Committee recommends more consistent outreach regarding emerging initiatives and actions that may fall within our charge. This could be implemented by e-mail with an update that summarizes the efforts and priorities of OCPE (and other programs re: adult learning and executive education) and can include a specific 'asks' when appropriate. (see related response #3).
2. The Committee received timely and adequate response per a) a request to meet with Renate Guilford, Associate Provost, Academic Administration (scheduled for April 2021), and b) a request to meet with Brett Josephson, Office of Executive Education, headed by and Marc Austin, Office of Continuing and Professional Education (held November 2020).
3. The Committee recommends consistent/scheduled meetings (once per semester) to keep committee apprised of Mason initiatives/programs relevant to committee charge.
4. The President, Provost, Senior Vice President, or their staff have been very responsive to our requests.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn P. Tomaszewski, Chair