President’s Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities

Minutes: October 7, 2013  10-11:30 a.m.
President’s Conference Room, Green Hall

1) **Introductions:** In attendance Joanne Eichinger, Meredith Clark, Annette Bourbonniere, Adam Moore, Joannah Portman-Daley, Tamara Bolotow, Joanne Lynch, Kim White, Meada Daly-Cano, Christine Sullivan, Susan Roush, Betsy Cooper, Laura Kenerson, Nancy Doyle-Moss, Roxanne Gomes, Pamela Rohland, Naomi Thompson

2) **Welcome from the Associate Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity - Naomi Thompson.**

   VP Thompson hopes we will identify issues of concern, best practices and solutions; she will advocate for those issues at the highest level of the Senior Leadership Team. The Commission on the Status of [People with Disabilities] is unique in the sense that many issues we will identify are based in state and federal laws of ADAAA and Sections 504/508 of the Rehabilitation Act. VP Thompson is committed to Disability as an Issue of Diversity for the URI Community.

3) **Today’s work of the Commission:**

   i) University Manual Language (handout) was discussed in depth with several suggestions for improvement. The proposed changes will be reviewed at the next meeting for formal adoption.

   ii) The initial proposal to create a [Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities] prepared by the Working Committee of July 2013 was reviewed for background information and a potential list of priorities to be determined at future meetings.

   iii) A monthly schedule was suggested, at least initially, for future meetings of the Commission at which we will
   
   (1) determine priority of proposed goals
   (2) Recommend Membership to the President
   (3) Elect Co-Chairs (one Faculty, one Staff)
(4) Future meetings might be in another location such as Memorial Union Atrium – due to room size and wheelchair accessibility at Green Hall. A suggested date was discussed of 11/4/13; meeting proposals will be sent to the entire list of interested members.

(5) Undergraduate/Graduate students should also be recruited for future meetings.

4) Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.