



University of Rhode Island Accessibility Task Force Meeting Summary

Meeting Date:	April 29, 2025
Meeting Time:	3:00-4:30 p.m.
Notice of Meeting:	
Location:	Higgins Welcome Center, Anchor Room
Present:	Erin Earle, El Fernekees, Markeisha Miner, Robin Santini, Dorca Smalley, Nina Schiarizzi-Tobin, Terry Wild
Guests:	Brandon Fuller, Ken Burke
Absent:	Evans Boateng-Boakye, Andrew Davies, Paul DePace

The meeting convened at 3:06 p.m.

I. Guest Speaker: Brandon Fuller, Manager, Web Communications, Communications & Marketing | Chair, Web Policies Committee

Web Communications Manager Brandon Fuller presented on best practices for accessibility across the University's website, estimated to have 6 million visits annually. Manager Fuller also discussed the current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1, Level AA (WCAG). As a state agency, URI is required to comply with these technical standards and shared a summary of the University's compliance efforts. More information is available at: <https://web.uri.edu/accessibility/>.

II. Guest Speaker: ADA Parking Space Enhancements -Ken Burke, Associate Director, Office of Capital Projects

Associate Director Burke provided the Task Force with an update on upcoming campus construction and other capital projects impacting parking, data collected and reviewed, and introduction of wayfinding signs directing community members to available parking. The Office of Capital Projects (OCP) has undertaken these projects in partnership with Public Safety and Transportation and Parking Services. Associate Director Burke requested the task force's feedback on the proposed striping efforts and areas of need for accessible parking. Members recommended using the updated international symbol of accessibility for parking projects.

III. Defining Accessibility

Co-Chair Smalley asked the task force to review the proposed definition on or before May 2d. A clean copy will be provided at the next meeting for discussion and voting as the task force's deliverable for the year.

IV. Review of March 2025 Meeting Summary

Tabled until next meeting.

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V. Forecasting Session - Potential Goals:

- a. ATF Website -Co-Chair Davies
The task force reviewed the draft website content Co-Chair Davies prepared and agreed to provide feedback before the next meeting. The Office of Community, Equity, and Diversity will create and host the site once the task force finalizes and approves content.
- b. ATF Communications Announcement -VP Miner
The task force reviewed a draft community announcement. Members agreed on the importance of highlighting that the task force is working on launching a website, developing communications structure, creating accessibility definitions, and planning to host an event in the fall. The task force will review a final draft at the May meeting.
- c. Recommendations: University Events or University Resources to be Highlighted -Co-Chair Smalley
Co-Chair Smalley reviewed proposed events including an information session, an informal listening session in drop-in format, and in-person meet and greet with refreshments. The task force was inclined to merge the 3 proposals. CED agreed to host and sponsor.

VI. Accessibility Task Force Report - Activities to Date:

- a. Introduced and finalized membership guidelines
- b. Established a baseline of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act at the University of Rhode Island
- c. Met a total of 6 times
- d. Identified a list of guest speakers with accessibility responsibilities
- e. Drafted a definition of accessibility
- f. Hosted Presentations on the topics of...
 - 1. Digital Accessibility at URI
 - 2. Baseline of Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act

VII. Terms: Member Graduation

Tabled until next meeting.

VIII. Next Steps and Task Force Recommendations for Agenda Items

The task force agreed to hold its final meeting of the academic year the week of May 12 and will review a draft memo summarizing agenda item VI above.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.