



Accessibility Task Force Meeting
Thursday, December 19, 2024
Higgins Welcome Center, Anchor Room

Agenda

Present: Andrew Davies, Dorca Smalley, Evans Boateng, Paul DePace, Erin Earle, El Fernkees, Robin Santini, Nina Schiarizzi-Tobin, Terry Wild, Markeisha Miner

The meeting began promptly at 9:30 with welcoming El Fernekees, undergraduate student representative, and introductions.

1. Review and Approval of Guidelines

Unanimously approved subject to undergrad student member comments and further review.

2. Review and Approval of Meeting Summary

The task force unanimously approved the summary of the November meeting.

3. Task Force Priorities and Definition of Accessibility

Task force members reviewed what's working well and what needs improvement based on feedback gathered from the constituencies represented. The compilation will serve as a living document for members to continue to edit for purposes of determining priority focus areas.

The task force also discussed the need to develop and adopt a comprehensive working definition of accessibility at URI that includes, but is broader than, the statutory definitions or legal and compliance obligations, and that captures the inclusive culture URI aims to create. Doing so provides a baseline for training and enhances accountability.

4. Establishing a Baseline

Determining where the university currently is in terms of communication and highlighting resources, policies, and service delivery is a priority. Some areas include Title IX accessibility for pregnant and parenting community members. It is also important to review historical documents from the prior Commission on Disability under President Dooley that this task force can build from.

5. Future Guest Speakers

Task force members reviewed a list of potential guest speakers compiled based on open questions and data needs that could inform its work. In addition to that list, task force members discussed adding: a representative of the Academic Policies Committee; Anita Jacobson, College of Pharmacy, former Commission on Disability member; and the HR 503

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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Liaison (in lieu of the Director of Personnel Services).

The task force agreed to extend future meetings to 90 minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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