

University of Rhode Island Accessibility Task Force

Meeting Date: February 25, 2025
Meeting Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Notice of Meeting:
Location: Alumni Center Board Room

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

Absent: Dorca Smalley

The meeting began at approximately 2:00 p.m.

I. Review and Approval of December 2024 and January 2025 Meeting Summaries

Task force members unanimously approved a properly moved and seconded motion to approve the December 2024 and January 2025 meeting summaries with necessary corrections of confirming accurate spelling of member's name.

II. Governance

a. Code of Conduct/Guidelines – Approval

Task force members reviewed and discussed the draft Membership Guidelines that had been circulated and discussed at prior meetings. After a properly moved and seconded motion, task force members unanimously voted to approve the Membership Guidelines.

b. Use of University Property Update

Vice President Miner updated the Task Force on the Use of University Property Regulations that were approved by the University Board of Trustees at their February 13, 2025 meeting after extensive public comment on draft regulations. Based on those comments, the draft regulations were updated and clarified, including to confirm that the regulations would not prohibit the use of mobility aids.

III. Defining Accessibility at URI

The Task Force engaged in an extended brainstorming session and discussion about how accessibility should be defined at URI. Members considered aspects of other universities' definitions. Members determined it essential that the definition not stand alone but rather be buttressed by procedures and training. Members agreed to add thoughts and suggested edits to a shared document prior to the next meeting. Members also discussed the need to obtain buy-in regarding the definition, once drafted, from campus partners including unions.

IV. Guest Speaker Invitations

In prior meetings, Task Force members had compiled a list of campus partners to invite as guest speakers. After review of that list and discussion, members agreed to invite Brandon Fuller to discuss web accessibility and Ryan Carillo to discuss physical accessibility and the Campus Comprehensive Plan. Speakers will be invited for 30 minutes. Task Force members will collect questions for guest speakers to address via a shared document circulated in advance.

V. Next Steps and Task Force Recommendations for Agenda Items

Task force members agreed that finalizing a draft definition of accessibility, informed by guest speakers' comments, with related procedures by the end of the academic year for recommendation to the University Diversity Council would conclude a productive first year.

The meeting adjourned just prior to 3:30 p.m.