

President's Commission on People with Disabilities

Executive Summary - 2018

Respectfully Completed by:

Anita Jacobson, Co-Chair 2015-2018 (faculty)

Christine Sullivan, Co-Chair 2016-2018 (staff)

Introduction:

The President's Commission on People with Disabilities (PCPD), established September 2013 includes representatives from student population, staff, faculty, and administration who are concerned about issues related to all types of accessibility for people with disabilities at URI.

Task Force 1 – Celebration & Awareness Building

- Critical Community Conversation: October 25, 2018 – “Re-claiming Disability” fishbowl format event with URI student narrators to demonstrate and raise awareness and discuss concerns on campus of issues affecting people with disabilities. Well attended and highly positive feedback.
- Proposal submitted for 2020 Honors Colloquium and related to disability “Disability: Changing Times, Changing Technology, Changing Expectations”
 - 200-level Honors course on wide range of disability topics
 - Goal for course to yield a sustainable training workshop on improving accessibility and universal design that can be offered to students, faculty and staff on an ongoing basis (similar to Safe Zone training for LGBTQ inclusion)

Task Force 2 – Compliance & Accessibility for Curricular & Online Accessibility, Parking & Transportation and Safety & Evacuation

- Online and Classroom Access:
 - Sakai accessibility continues to improve and now allows for a way to report accessibility problems.
 - Closed-Captioning for short videos for classrooms through the Media & Technology Services Department - area of concern
 - ITS leadership has expressed concerns regarding funding for large-scale captioning within IT alone. At this time, the URI ITS office is able to offer consultation and suggested resources at an individual level, but cannot offer full captioning services. ITS is working to find solutions within their group to help support this need, but funding and support from administration is something that will be needed to offer full captioning and transcription services.
- Parking & Transportation: 10-year master plan approved to move regular parking out of campus core and increase accessible parking and service vehicle access;

manage demand before increasing supply; enhance shuttle services – likely will not be RIPTA going forward; transform campus roadways into complete streets with pedestrian walkways, bike paths, landscaping and drainage; create a regionally connected bicycle network to South County bike path; create a parking model to adapt to changing circumstances and anticipated issues. RamVan services transferred to Transportation Office.

- Interactive Google/Geocortex map of the URI campus proposed for development in order to allow frequent updates and descriptive detail on accessibility for residents and visitors on campus - area of concern
 - Despite unanimous approval of the PCPD for developing an interactive easy to update accessibility map (similar to other state Universities - visit https://maps.unh.edu/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=UNH_Accessibility) significant barriers exist to implementation and development including funding, staffing and sustainability.
- Safety & Evacuation: active shooter trainings well attended and received positive feedback; working on new “Avoid Deny Defend” safety film with URI Film Department.

Miscellaneous:

- Governor's Commission on Disabilities handicap access funds for the following:
 - assisted listening devices for Will Theater, Recital Hall and a portable unit for classroom use: \$15,700
 - four Phonak Roger individual FM assistive listening systems for URI Disability Services for Students: \$4,500
 - funds for design of accessibility for Bliss Hall renovation: \$74,000 FY18
 - special additional grant for renovation of Bliss Hall: \$110,000 in FY18
 - future additional funds to renovate Bliss Hall: \$225,000 FY19
 - future additional funds to renovate Bliss Hall: \$200,000 FY20
- Service Animals on Campus Policy developed.
- Nicol Hernandez, student member of the PCWD was recognized with the Office of CED 2018 Diversity & Inclusive Excellence Award for Undergraduate Student Community Excellence. She received this award for raising awareness regarding the issue of campus accessibility.

Conclusion:

While the commission is able to discuss and identify high-profile issues that come to its attention, there are three frequent barriers: (1) proposals of the commission do not have clear funding; (2) the commission is limited in its ability to provide personnel hours to address issues (3) do not have a full-time URI staff member to address areas of concern related to disability access issues and implement new guidelines, training policies, and oversight (example: ongoing maintenance of interactive map), this would be beneficial in ensuring that URI could become a leader in improving campus access.

Membership:

Commission Membership includes presidentially appointed representatives from various facets of the University.

	Name	Department
1	Stephen Baker	Public Safety
2	Tamara Bolotow	CCE Instructional Support & Disability Services
3	Annette Bourbonniere	College of Environmental Sciences
4	Emily Clapham	Kinesiology
5	Meredith Clark	Graduate School of Oceanography
6	Paul DePace	Capital Projects
7	Nancy Doyle-Moss	Nursing
8	Jason Dwyer	Chemistry
9	Rachel Ferreira	Student, Health Studies
10	Michelle Flippin	Communicative Disorders
11	Roxanne Gomes	Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity & Diversity
12	Nicol Hernandez	Student, Communicative Disorders
13	Anita Jacobson	Pharmacy
14	Laura Kenerson	Human Resources
15	Aria Mia Loberti	Student, Biology
16	Joanne Lynch	Admission
17	Isobel McCullough	Student, Theatre
18	Adam Moore	School of Education
19	Khrystyne Poll	Graduate Student
20	Joannah Portman-Daley	Online Learning and Teaching
21	Pamela Rohland	Disability Services for Students
22	Susan Roush	Physical Therapy Program
23	Bridget Ruemmele	Plant Sciences
24	Kevin Smith	Talent Development
25	Michael Starkey	Counseling Center
26	Christine Sullivan	Controller's Office