

## **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.