

The President's Commission on People with Disabilities

Minutes

March 17, 2014, 2 pm

Memorial Union 300, Student Senate Chambers

In attendance: Tamara Bolotow, Roxanne Gomes, Annette Bourbonniere, Susan Roush, Joanne Lynch, Christine Sullivan, W. Michael Sullivan, Amanda Chichester, Mary Jane Klinkhammer, Pamela Rohland

1) Introductions for new members

2) **Approval of Minutes from 2/19/2014.** J. Lynch/C. Sullivan moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Approval was unanimous.

3) Old Business:

- The name change of the Commission to “President’s Commission on People with Disabilities” is acceptable – per Naomi Thompson, as well as adding the word “equitable” to the first paragraph in 5.40.10. Pamela confirmed this change with Eileen Orabone in CED on 3/18/14.
- Letters of appointment are in process per Department of Community, Equity and Diversity.
- Comments on the Conference “Voices Carry: Embody the Change” on 2/28/14. Members discussed the “Voices Carry” conference. Questions on availability or access to sessions through videotape or access to presentation PowerPoint through Sakai. Roxanne will follow up with committee.
- Members discussed “Beyond the ADA” PowerPoint (sent to all Commission members prior to the webinar on March 11, 2014; we discussed comfort animals vs service animals and accessible classrooms. Other points from the webinar may/will inform our work in helping to identify major topics of concern for URI compliance and for people with disabilities.

4) New Business

- a) Take up specific actions and duties for commission members re: taskforces for each of the two priorities
- b) Report of Taskforces – groups did not convene since the February meeting. We discussed the two priorities identified at last meeting and had additional members from today’s attendance. Additional members to Priority 1 taskforce: Mary Jane Klinkhammer and Susan Roush. Additional members to Priority 2 taskforce: Michael Sullivan, Tammy Bolotow and Amanda Chichester. Taskforces broke into groups and reported back to Commission.
 - i) Taskforce Priority 1 Suggestions: release of film series; universal design availability; architectural design with Tech Access; honorary degree recipient; distinguished scholar grant. Next Priority 1 meeting will be decided among the group.
 - ii) Taskforce Priority 2 Suggestions: ensure that the survey being released from CE&D will include questions on disability; captioning on all online audio presentations including courses, web access, online maps and cultural attitude/bias. Use the PPT presentation “Beyond the ADA” as a guide in determining relevant topics. Roxanne will confirm survey topics and release date. Next Priority 2 taskforce meeting, [Mon](#), 3/24 at 2:30 location Memorial Union 314.

Priority 1 Taskforce. Encourage a climate to celebrate differences and abilities among all people at URI, while affirming the many outstanding contributions of people with disabilities to the campus community; The taskforce might research other institutions ways of being inclusive (4-5 ppl). ***Next taskforce meeting to be determined.***

Member Taskforce Priority 1	Email
Mary McDonald (suggested as a research resource) - (401)874-4635	marymac@uri.edu
Leonard Gerber** (Temporary facilitator)	legdoc@uri.edu
Annette Bourbonniere	abourbonniere@my.uri.edu
Anita Jackson	anitaj@uri.edu
Mary Jane Klinkhammer	mjanek@mail.uri.edu
Susan Roush	seroush@gmail.com

Priority 2 Taskforce. Identify major topics of concern for people with disabilities; ***Next Meeting – 3/24/2014 at 2:30 pm – room Memorial Union 314.***

- o Discuss breaking into groups based on the type of disability

- OR environment type/functional need (e.g. technology, parking/curb cuts)
- Finding overlap between disabilities (e.g. PTSD & learning disability)
- Caregivers
- Use “Beyond the ADA” power point as a guide?

Member Taskforce Priority 2	Email
Pamela Rohland	Rohland@mail.uri.edu
Adam Moore ** (Temporary facilitator)	adam_moore@mail.uri.edu adammmore@yahoo.com
Christine Sullivan	Cmsullivan@mail.uri.edu
Bridget Ruemmele	bridgetr@uri.edu
Kerri Hicks	kerri_hicks@uri.edu
Joanne Lynch	jlynch@uri.edu
W. Michael Sullivan	senmike@mail.uri.edu
Tammy Bolotow	tamarabol@mail.uri.edu
Amanda Chichester	adeangel@mail.uri.edu

Future Commission meetings for Spring semester - All are in Student Senate Chambers, Memorial Union from 2-3:30 on the follow dates: Wednesday, [April 16](#), Monday, [May 12](#)