

The President's Commission on People with Disabilities

Agenda

June 9, 2014 2:30 pm

Location: Memorial Union Room 301

In attendance and Introductions: Nancy Doyle-Moss, Tamara Bolotow, Meredith Clark, Michael Donohue, Bridget Ruemmele, Joanne Lynch, Kerri Hicks, Joannah Portman-Daly, Christine Sullivan, Annette Bourbonnier, Mary Jane Klinkhammer, Pamela Rohland

1) Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2014.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of May 12, 2014. Approval was unanimous.

2) Old Business:

- Letters of appointment are in process
- View Safety Video “Run Hide Fight”
The group viewed the URI Safety video which can be found on the URI website at <http://web.uri.edu/emergency/>. A vibrant discussion ensued with a variety of reactions regarding the Safety Evacuation Policy (see New Business below). There was a suggestion that there be a particular video or plan for each of the URI campuses.

3) New Business

a) Safety Evacuation Policy.

After watching the “Run, Hide, Fight” video, Mike Donohue heard and responded to concerns of several group members:

- i) many persons with disability cannot easily perform any of the actions suggested by the video
 - ii) Policies would preferably create individual empowerment for people to exit a building safely, rather than relying on other (possibly panicked) citizens for communication and assistance. People with disabilities might also provide leadership in evacuation procedures.
- b) Lt. Donohue outlined future plans for security efforts, including GPS phones, safe spaces for each building, central registration for people who may need assistance, blue light phone systems located in each building.
 - c) Other parts of the discussion included: concerns that personal freedoms could be in balance with strict guidelines for personal safety; individuals should be empowered to self-care; buddy systems are encouraged for all campus community; suggested collaborations with Jenn Longa, Civility Education in the Office of Student Life toward

building a caring community. The video is an important step to central education about safety for all community members.

- d) More awareness might include use of a universal communication model found in the United Kingdom: evacuation plans for each building clearly posted for all people in the building; posted dedicated phone lines and/or fire boxes in every building allowing individual empowerment for safety.

e) **Online course accessibility implementation and recommendations.**

Tabled to next meeting.

f) **Task Force Reports**

Tabled to next meeting

4) **Future direction – discussions with/recommendations to Upper Administration Team.**

Mary Jane Klinkhammer drafted an insightful letter to the president and the upper administration, including Major Baker, Director of URI Public Safety. The letter addressed the Run, Hide, Fight video from the perspective of persons with disability and educates the upper administration team on the possible impact of evacuation policies to persons with disabilities. She did and we will encourage policies and procedures that allow a more complete sense of autonomy and safety for people with disabilities. For example evacuation plans posted openly for every building would empower independence for each person with or without a disability. This discussion will continue at future meetings.

The next agenda will include

- (a) relaying of the Taskforce 2 discussions
- (b) evacuation procedures recommendations
- (c) endorse Mary Jane Klinkhammer's letter after email feedback from the group.

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday July 23rd, 3pm
- Bay campus; Ocean Science Exploration Center-Challenger Room.