

The President's Commission on People with Disabilities
Minutes
April 16, 2014, 2 pm
Memorial Union 300, Student Senate Chambers

In attendance: Roxanne M. Gomes, Laura Kenerson, Tamara Bolotow, Bridget Ruemmele, Pamela Rohland, Paul M. DePace, Annette Bourbonniere, Joannah Portonan-Daley, Kerri Hicks, Meredith Clark, Joanne Lynch, Christine Sullivan, Adam Moore, Bob Ferrell, Anita Jackson

1. Introductions for new members

2. Approval of minutes from March 17, 2014

A motion to approve the March 17 minutes was made, it was seconded, and approved unanimously.

3. Old Business:

Letters of appointment are in process per Department of Community, Equity and Diversity Continue to note: "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.)

All agreed that this will be ongoing and this will be brought up from time to time during future commission meetings.

4. New Business

Report of Taskforces (see attached minutes from each Taskforce meeting for additional references)

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 for inclusive programs or activities (4-5 ppl).

- Giving an Honorary degree to a person with a disability. Poll active members of the community for possible recipients, and Jane Driscoll's name was mentioned today.
- Devoting one day for disability during URI Diversity Week; suggested speaker, Honorable Tammy Duckworth, also a disabled veteran, as a guest speaker for diversity week
- Maysoon Zaid, Arab American Comedian with a Disability, seen on Ted Talks video.
- Possibility of a monthly film series - Tammy Bolotow, will send the list of movies she has shown in her class about writing and disability.
- Possible Art Exhibit that highlights accomplishments of people with disabilities.

- Create a Disability version of training modules, possibly modeled after Safe Zone Training – LGBTQQ Center.
- *See attached Task force 2 Minutes for additional ideas.*

Priority 2 Taskforce. Identify major topics of concern for people with disabilities;

Signage such as is found in United Kingdom from the Paralympic summer games to display accessibility notices and directions would be a good model to follow in the U.S.

- Film captions
- Audio Descriptions
- Accessibility Mapping of the campus
- Universal Design for Learning
- Some Topics discussed here also sequed into the next major topic of Online Course accessibility.
- Paul DePace will be available to help draft a proposal for purchase of software and equipment for consideration by Provost.
- *See attached Minutes from Priority 2 Taskforce meeting on 3/24/2014; Adam Moore will convene the next Priority 2 Taskforce meeting.*

5. Urgency of Online Course Accessibility-procedures, resources, support for faculty.

Joannah Portman Daley, Kerri Hicks, Pamela Rohland

Should we support an accessibility policy for online learning, when there already is the ADA/504 in place – per Joannah Portman-Daly and her department.

- Film captions
- Audio Descriptions
- Accessibility Mapping of the campus
- Universal Design for Learning, which benefits all students, whether with or without a disability. Task force 2 suggested developing a template accommodation letter, showing necessary hypothetical accommodations for a blind student or a deaf student, could be informative about some universal design planning
- Obtain the Provost's endorsement and advocacy to support faculty in designing universally.
- Faculty need supports and resources in order to create supportive and inclusive experiences for students.
- Re-fund the historical Alternate Test Space supported by the Provost?
- Paul DePace mentioned that there is a memorandum of agreement for the Governor's Commission on Disability and a \$500,000 Accessibility fund for facilities modification; Paul will share the report with committee following this meeting; there was some question whether facilities modification could include software and equipment to support online captioning for courses.

6. ** Please note that Disability Services is willing to come to faculty meetings to discuss the services that are offered for students.

7. A summer meeting schedule will be determined at the Monday May 12, 2014 Meeting. Student Senate Chambers, MU 300, 2-3:30.

8. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm