

The President's Commission on People with Disabilities

Minutes

May 12, 2014, 2 pm

Memorial Union 300, Student Senate Chambers

In attendance and introductions:

Bridget Ruemmele, Christine Sullivan, Meredith Clark, Joanne Lynch, Anita Jackson, Susan Roush, Len Gerber, Pamela Rohland, Tamara Bolotow, Nancy Doyle-Moss, Kerri Hicks, Adam Moore, Mary Jane Klinkhammer, Annette Bourbonnierre, W.Michael Sullivan, Paul DePace

1) Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2014.

- It was moved and seconded to approve the April 16 minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

2) Old Business:

- Letters of appointment are in process per Eileen Orabone, Department of Community, Equity and Diversity.

3) New Business

- a) Disability Map** - Bridget Ruemmele mentioned that the map needs to be updated, for it was last updated in 2010. Joanne Lynch committee member mentioned that it is the process of being revised, this continued under the Task Force 2 discussions.

b) Safety Video (Run, Hide, Fight)

- Several members expressed concern about the Safety Video (Run, Hide, Fight) in regard to efficacy for people with disabilities, (physical, vision, mental health or other types of disability).
- Discussion revolved around our Commission's role to advise and advocate regarding policy and impact on people with disabilities, particularly in regard to safety and risk management issues.
- VP Christina Valentino was the point person for the video and its distribution. URI Police and Safety Personnel influenced the video content. There was concern about first responder notification procedures regarding the safety of people with disabilities in a building under evacuation order.
- Department of Health does a presentation for the emergency preparedness management for people with disabilities→ Annette will seek more information regarding DOH presence at our future meetings
- At the next meeting, on June 9 the commission will watch the safety video and form a response about how to advocate for policies that address safety and evacuation for people with disabilities.

c) Report of Taskforces

- Task Force #1: Recognize/Celebrate Disability Issues
 - Reminder that our role is not to actually do, but recommend
 - Identify a day during Diversity week to focus solely on disability
 - Anita Jackson mentioned that the College of Pharmacy is hosting one day during Diversity Week; their chosen keynote address is scheduled to be a motivational speaker and a student from Providence College who has a physical disability. → Wednesday, October 1st at 9am.
 - A suggestion was put forward to work with Mailee Kue at the Multicultural Center to schedule other Disability-themed presentations on that Wednesday to complement the Pharmacy keynote speaker and to approximate a “Disability Awareness Day” during Diversity Week.
 - Other ideas included adaptive sports, support animals, entertainment such as disability dance troupes, etc.
- Task Force #2: Identify major topics of concern
 - Captioning and Description of Videos that are part of classroom presentations.
 - Need for resources to support faculty in their online course development.
 - Paul is able to help with memos and proposals for purchase and implementation of the technology necessary to create accessible online environments.
 - We discussed existing URI capabilities and technology, the recent purchase and soon to be implemented technology (Dave Porter is the contact); there is concern for accessibility of the new purchases.
 - Looking at what MIT does to caption all online videos presented in their courses, including MOOC. There are designated MIT staff to perform lecture capture, and to produce accessible open courseware products involving the faculty member’s approval.
 - Task Force 2 will meet to prepare a written plan/proposal that will emphasize course accessibility and recommend implementation procedures for online accessibility (based on budget requirements). The Task Force 2 will bring their results to the Commission for review and discussion prior to scheduled meetings with the VP or Provost/President.

d) Summer Meeting Schedule

- Committee members suggested having 2 meetings during the summer
- June 9, 2014 2:30-3:30pm; Location MU 301 (working on a room in the MCC).
 - Taskforce 2 will meet sometime prior to the June 9th meeting; Adam Moore will work to schedule this task force meeting.
- Wednesday July 23rd, 3pm Bay campus; Ocean Science Exploration Center-Challenger Room.

e) Future directions

- Recommendations from the summer meeting will be presented to President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, and/or Associate VP Thompson.