Commission Co-chairs:
Georgia Kerns, Associate Professor, Department of Education
John LaCourse, Professor/Chair, Electrical and Computer Engineering, CEPS

Membership:
Dani Adler, Associate Director, Center for Academic Resources
Ruth Abelman, Associate Director, Residential Life
Kirit Basu, Associate Director, Center for Academic Technology, IT
Doug Bencks, Director of Campus Planning
Mariah Bellington, Human Resources Partner
Chandler Bullard, Program Support Assistance, Northeast Passage
Cathy Coakley, Coordinator of Student Athletic Development
Kevin Ennis, Undergraduate student
Suzy Gallor, Psychologist, Counseling Center
Ashley Kysor, Resident Hall Director, Residential Life
Toby Parich-Davies, Project Director on Poverty and Disability, Institute on Disability
Lonn Sattler, Veterans’ Coordinator, Office of the Registrar
Judy Stevens, Health Education/Community Health Nurse, Health Services
Carol Swiech, Academic Counselor & Disabilities Coordinator, UNHM
Nate Talbot, Academic Career Counselor, University Advising
Dirk Timmons, Director of Transportation, Transportation and Parking Services
Kristen (Sonic) Woytonik, Graduate student
Janis Zrebiec, Senior Associate Director, Office of Admissions

Ex-officio Members:
Wendy Beckwith, EEO/ADA Compliance Officer, Office of Affirmative Action
Kathy Berger, Director, Disability Services for Students
Sylvia Foster, Educational Program Coordinator, Office of President’s Commissions
Janice Pierson, Senior Program Assistant, Office of President’s Commissions

Commission goals and initiatives for the year
The Commission extended its efforts within the framework of four major working groups
 Programming
 Physical Access
 Communications and Public Relations
 Development of Pilot Program for First-year Students

Below is a summary of each group’s activities, accomplishments and goals.
(1) Programming Working Group

This work group co-sponsored two programs with MUB Lecture Series; *Thinking in Pictures with Temple Grandin* and *Darius Goes West with Documentary Filmmaker Logan Smalley*. The Temple Grandin program drew the largest audience in the history of MUB Lectures and was simulcast from the Granite State Room to the Food Court and Strafford Room large number of community members, including children. Dr. Grandin is an active researcher and advocate in the area of autism spectrum disorders and provided audience members with information in the context of her childhood and academic career as she experienced the symptoms and diagnosis of autism. She asked the audience to consider how we must teach by first finding each child’s passion and strengths and avoid focusing on the weaknesses. “Behavior problems disappear when you center on how the child learns,” she coached her audience.

*Darius Goes West*, chronicled the life of Darius Weems and others as they promoted awareness of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and the need for increased mobile chair accessibility.

The commission also provided financial support to Women’s Studies to bring the documentary film *Austin UnBound* to campus. This program featured the story of a deaf person experiencing transitioning from female to male gender.

A panel discussion with UNH students with both hidden and visible disabilities, was also held in February. This is the third year the commission has co-hosted the event with Disability Student Services and it continues to provide faculty, staff and students the impressive range of stories on the UNH experience for the student with a disability.

For the first time, the commission held a “Creating Access for All” event in celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, on December 3rd. This event allowed faculty, staff and students an opportunity to try out assistive technology devices and talk with experts to learn more about removing barriers. Offices/departments participating in the event included Occupational Therapy, Health Services, the Counseling Center, Disability Student Services, Northeast Passage, Wildcat Friends and others.

Another initiative for this working group is employee-based training, and members began the process by assembling a list of disability-related professional development trainings and resources that are already in place on campus. The focus is to expand the definition of diversity (inclusive excellence) and assure that persons with disabilities are included as an “identity” – in conversations and trainings centered on inclusive excellence.

(2) Physical Access Working Group

Work continued with enhancing the Accessibility Campus Map to include building interiors, sensory components and applications for handheld devices. A catalog of all Wildcat Transit Bus stops was completed this year and it is now posted on UNH Transportation and this commission’s web site. Assembling information on building interiors is continuing in cooperation with Campus Planning Global Information System. In addition, the group will be working to build an information gathering repository system to house accessibility issues where students and employees would report accessibility problems that they may have encountered.

A member of this commission will now be included on meetings held by the Campus and Safety Committee which includes discussions and also addresses safety-related issues on all main access roads in and around campus within the Town of Durham.
(3) Communications and Public Relations Work Group

Most of the academic year was spent on the sidewalk safety initiative. Members generated ideas for the educational awareness video and the print media campaign flyers. The video will contain approximately 3-4 short scenarios depicting typical, near mishaps that seem to occur on campus sidewalks on a regular basis. The group will be collaborating with a student intern from the Communications and Arts Department of UNHM and plans to begin filming during Fall 2013. Educational flyers highlighting the need for sidewalk safety will also be posted in high traffic areas around campus.

Doug Bencks reported that Transportation and Parking has now installed special parking areas within existing parking lots for mopeds and has instituted a policy that restricts moped use on sidewalks. They are also working on a similar policy for bicycles; however, there are certain heavily travelled sidewalks such as Library Way where bikes may be permitted.

Although the commission’s web site already provides a link from Mobility International for Respectful Disability Language, the working group is also collaborating with the other three commissions to create an “Inclusive Excellence Bias-Free Language Guide”. The group will be working during Fall 2013 on promotion of the guide to faculty, staff and students as well as the Writing Center, English 401 classes, Navitas, TNH, department Deans and Chairs, and other groups.

The group also updated the commission’s website and included additional resources, photos and the video from the student panel group discussion.

(4) First Year Program Working Group

Members in this group began the process of collecting information about first-year programs in use at other colleges and talking with students with disabilities on what type of program they would like to see in place.

In addition, the office of Disability Student Services is collaborating with the Center for Academic Resources to pilot a first-year experience this summer as a strand of the Rising Scholars Program. The day-long session will include campus orientation, assistance for requesting accommodations from faculty, and academic study support.

Information from EEO/ADA Compliance Officer, Wendy Beckwith

Members received periodic updates throughout the academic year from Wendy Beckwith on areas related to EEO/ADA compliance. Most notable was information on TTY User Notification Protocol which ensures equal access to real-time communication by telephone to all campus departments. She reported that since UNH telephones using the automated attended system do not respond to TTY, all employees should be posting the number for TRS (Telephone Relay System) which is considered equal to TTY for quality and accessibility of communicating with individuals who have hearing and speech disabilities.

Updates were also provided on the Web Accessibility Compliance Project, a project intended to assure that UNH is providing all web based services, programs and activities in an accessible format.

Information on accessibility features of new construction and renovation projects
included a detailed description on the assistive listening system that was installed in the newly completed Paul College. She will be working with Assistive Technology to assure that information about this system is widely distributed, and eventually, all large lecture halls on campus will have this technology in place.

University Council for Inclusive Excellence and Equity

Two representatives from this commission provided monthly progress reports to members on initiatives and work of this Council. This commission brought forward two initiatives that they would like the Council to advance; 1) the need to build professional development programs for faculty and staff on working with employees with disabilities and, 2) address issues of improving campus accessibility including room acoustics, improved walkways, and education around the use of amplification and assistive listening devices.

Respectfully submitted by Georgia Kerns and John LaCourse, Co-chairs