President’s Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities
February 4, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Wendy Beckwith, Doug Bencks, Kathy Berger, Chandler Bullard, Kristin Carpenter, Cathy Coakley, Kevin Ennis, Sylvia Foster, Linda Guttman, Georgia Kerns, Toby Partch-Davies, Jeff Parsons, Lonn Sattler, Judy Stevens, Nate Talbot, Janis Zrebiec

I. Minutes
- Members voted to approve the December minutes.

II. Report From Joint Commission Co-chair Meeting
- Georgia reported that co-chairs from all the commissions met with Chris Shea in January and each commission provided updates on their initiatives.
- Chris Shea also conveyed the news that the job portfolio for the Associate Vice President of Community, Equity and Diversity, has been approved by the president along with the realignment of the position to fall under his direction rather than the provost as in the current arrangement. The search committee will be meeting soon, and we have been assured that at least one member of each commission will serve on this committee.
- It has not been determined as to who will take on the responsibilities of faculty development.
- Co-chairs also agreed to do a better job of keeping the other commissions apprised of their upcoming programs/events.

III. Membership
- The following members have completed their membership terms (3 years) and were asked either to serve another term or to nominate another representative from their respective offices:
  - Doug Bencks, Cathy Coakley, and Lonn Sattler will all stay on for another term.
  - Judy Stevens will reach out to other staff members in her office. If no one is available she will stay on.
  - Janis Zrebiec will also reach out to other staff members in her office.
- Georgia will send emails to Dani Adler and Mariah Bellington to check on their status for next year and she will also make an inquiry with Academic Technology to ask them to send a representative from their staff to fill Kirit Basu’s commission membership since he has left UNH.

IV. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

PROGRAMMING WORKING GROUP (Dani, Georgia, Judy, Janis, Kathy Berger, Sylvia, Chandler, Kristin, Linda, Tobey, Kevin)
- Events and Programs:
  - Sylvia remarked that the flyers have been posted for the Feb 18th student panel discussion and that the group is also working on a PowerPoint presentation.
  - Georgia reported that the Governor is unavailable to present the award and that they will be reaching out to Dick Cannon.

PHYSICAL ACCESS WORKING GROUP (John, Lonn, Jeff, Doug, Elaina, Wendy)
- Wendy reported that a pilot app that includes interior floor plans and accessibility routes for nine campus buildings will be ready soon.
- With regard to assistive listening devices, The College of Liberal Arts has agreed to fund the installment of these devices for Johnson Theatre and Bratton Recital Hall for FY15.
Wendy verified that the Whitt is also in possession of these devices but more needs to be done with building signage to alert those who have hearing difficulty on the whereabouts of these devices.

- The letter requesting a plan of action to address building acoustics for instructional and assembly spaces was sent out in January to Marshall White, Nora Malloy, Rick MacDonald and Doug Bencks.
  - Doug acknowledged that building acoustics is an important item that needs higher priority and said that his office will be addressing these issues over time for both new construction and upcoming building renovations.
- Wendy reported that the Web Accessibility Planning group has not received the report back from the consultant yet, and went on to say that this report will include various drafts of policies and standards for monitoring, compliance, and evaluation. To this point, funding for the project has been co-shared by the Provost Office and IT; however, the budget for FY15, will seek to fund this project through a line item on the campus-wide initiative budget instead of these two offices.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP (Mariah, Janice, Cathy Coakley, Nate)

- Sylvia reported that she will be assembling a meeting with members of the award committee soon to review the nominations and select the awardee.
- Nate reported that the working group also plans to meet with students from WildActs soon to begin work on the sidewalk safety video.

Respectfully submitted

Meeting Schedule: Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6

Janice Pierson