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

Attendance: Wendy Beckwith, Doug Bencks, Chandler Bullard, Kristin Carpenter, Kevin Ennis, Sylvia Foster, Elaina Hill, Georgia Kerns, Tobey Partch-Davies, Jeff Parsons, Lonn Sattler, Judy Stevens, Nate Talbot, Janis Zrebiec

I. Minutes
   ▪ Members voted to approve the February minutes.

II. Update on Membership and Leadership
   ▪ Georgia reported that she and John plan to stay on as co-chairs for the commission for AY15.
   ▪ Judy will continue to serve as the Health Services representative.
   ▪ Janis is stepping off the commission, and Tara Scholder will now fill the Office of Admissions seat.

III. Title IX Letter
   ▪ Commission members reviewed the letter sent to Donna Marie Sorrentino on behalf of the Women’s Commission and the People of Color Commission. Georgia explained that the co-chairs of the Women’s Commission are asking for endorsement of the letter from all four commissions.
   ▪ The reason for presenting the letter to Donna Marie was to present the case for halting the use of the draft protocol that is currently being applied in sexual assault matters. The Women’s Commission position is that, until the protocol is vetted by all the commissions and other campus governing bodies, it should not continue to be used. The UNH draft protocol was put together as a response to the Department of Education’s “Dear Colleagues Letter”, which was distributed to all campuses to present the changes to Title IX relating to matters of sexual assault and harassment.
   ▪ After discussion, motion was made by Kevin, and seconded by Lonn, for the commission to endorse the letter. With 1 member abstaining, the commission voted to endorse the letter.

IV. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

PROGRAMMING WORKING GROUP (Dani, Georgia, Judy, Janis, Kathy Berger, Sylvia, Chandler, Kristin, Linda, Tobey, Kevin)
   ▪ Events and Programs:
     o The group was pleased with the turnout of people who attended the student panel discussion; there seemed to be a good mix of students, faculty and staff in attendance. Using MUB Theatre II, rather than the Strafford Room, also turned out to be a better fit for this venue. For those unable to attend, the PowerPoint and the video of the event are now posted on the web site.
     o Dining Services was pleased to accept the first Disability Commission award and having Dick Cannon present the award was an ideal choice as he was present to hear feedback from students about their issues related to campus curtailments as follows.
       ▪ Need to find more creative options to assure that when the campus is curtailed (i.e. recent snow storms), that (1) students with mobility impairments are still able to receive their dining hall meals, (2) if personal care attendants are unable to reach the students they assist, than an alternate system needs to be put in place to assure aid continues to be rendered to those students who rely on it, and (3) that curb cuts to sidewalks be cleared of snow.
       ▪ More discussion will be needed with Dick Cannon, Dining Services, Facilities, Disability Student Services and this commission on these matters.
PHYSICAL ACCESS WORKING GROUP (John, Lonn, Jeff, Doug, Elaina, Wendy)

- Elaina reported that she has spoken with a few students who indicated their interest in being part of a student user group. They are planning to meet after spring break week.
- Wendy reported that written instructions are provided in rooms that feature assisted listening devices, and that more work will need to be done on their whereabouts. She is also working on updating the resource information links for her office web site.

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

- Nate reported that the working group has met with WildActs and that they have agreed to collaborate with us on the sidewalk safety video. Over the next month they will be reviewing the scripts and lining up students from their group to work on the video. They are hoping to begin filming once the snow and ice has melted. Video Services will do the filming for the project as we want to assure that the finished video is filmed and edited in a professional manner.
- The group will also work on finding students who have experience in graphic arts, to work with them on the poster campaign.

Respectfully submitted

Janice Pierson

Meeting Schedule: Apr 1, May 6