President’s Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities
October 15, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Wendy Beckwith, Mariah Bellington, Doug Bencks, Kathy Berger, Kristin Carpenter, Cathy Coakley, Kevin Ennis, Sylvia Foster, Linda Guttman, Elaina Hill, Georgia Kerns, John LaCourse, Jeff Parsons, Judy Stevens, Nate Talbot

I. MINUTES
  ▪ Members voted to approve the September minutes.

II. DISCUSSION WITH TODD DeMITCHELL
  ▪ Todd serves as Prof/Chair, Department of Education, Faculty Senate, and he is also a co-chair on the People of Color Commission. Today’s discussion centered on what steps could be taken to encourage more faculty participation with the commission.
    o Todd indicated that all of the commissions share the challenge of increasing faculty involvement with the commissions. He feels the primary deterrent is not about lack of interest or concern with our initiatives, but is generally about the time commitment. During their CSPC co-chairs meeting, a proposal was made for faculty affiliate status rather than full membership status. This change would allow faculty to be engaged in targeted initiatives that they may have a passion/academic interest in without the obligatory full commission meetings and activities.
    o The Faculty Senate’s basic mission is to support the academic mission of the university. It has six standing committees and two ongoing committees. Senate members are an elected body and the number of faculty representatives is determined by the number of tenure-track faculty within each department. Most of their motions are filed through the committees.
      ▪ In terms of advancing our initiatives to the Senate floor, Todd said that, unfortunately, the Senate has no current incentive to take up our causes, but that we do have influence; therefore, commission members must develop the incentives. Serving on the commissions also counts toward the service requirement for tenure-track faculty; however, commission service is often overlooked and undervalued by department heads.
    o Currently, research faculty, clinical faculty, lecturers and extension faculty do not have representation on the Faculty Senate, but a report is due out in late January on the viability of expanding the Senate to include additional representatives.

III. UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

PROGRAMMING WORKING GROUP (Dani, Georgia, Judy, Janis, Kathy Berger, Sylvia, Chandler, Kristin, Linda, Tobey, Kevin)
  ▪ Events and Programs: members were asked to help spread the word on MUB Lectures (1) Jonathan Mooney, on November 6, 7:00-8:00pm, and (2) Michael Hingson, on November 13, 7:00-8:00pm. Flyers will be going out to all members.
    o UNH alum, Josh Crary has been asked to be the featured speaker for the International Day for Persons with Disabilities event, scheduled for November 19, 4:00-5:00pm, MUB Theater II. Josh will talk about his experience of running the Boston Marathon in his talk named “Blind Runner”.

PHYSICAL ACCESS WORKING GROUP (John, Lonn, Jeff, Doug, Elaina, Wendy)
  ▪ John reported that the pop-up feature for the Accessibility Map will be ready for the working group to view within the next couple of weeks.
- Kathy reported that the accessibility map link on the UNH map page was not working recently. Doug indicated that the link was down for a short term due to the changeover of software, but the link should be working now.

**COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP** (Mariah, Janice, Kirit, Cathy Coakley, Nate)
- Commission members were asked to review and provide feedback on the draft of the award description (distributed with the minutes).
  - Members asked that the text of the 2nd paragraph be reworded to “commission award for cultivating inclusiveness of people with disabilities”.
  - Members were asked to assist in generating ideas in naming the award. It was suggested that we contact the Alumni office to see if the award could be named after a UNH alum who advocated for increased dialogue, research, scholarship and policy work regarding disability issues or who advocated on behalf of those with disabilities.
- The award will be posted on PAWS in November.

Respectfully submitted
Janice Pierson

Meeting Schedule:  Nov 12, Dec 10, Jan (no mtg)
Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6