President’s Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities
September 17, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Kirit Basu, Wendy Beckwith, Doug Bencks, Kristin Carpenter, Cathy Coakley, Sylvia Foster, Linda Guttman, Elaina Hill, Georgia Kerns, John LaCourse, Lonn Sattler, Judy Stevens, Nate Talbot

I. MINUTES, MEMBERSHIP
   ▪ Members approved the May minutes and the Year-End Report.
   ▪ At this time the Commission is still in need of representation from UNHM and a graduate student.

II. JOINT Co-CHAIR MEETING
   ▪ Co-chairs from all commissions met with Chris Shea, Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Inclusive Excellence in August. Commissions shared their main goals and objectives for the coming year and developed the following next steps;
     ○ Establish a system for on-going dialogue and connections with the Office of the President.
     ○ Combine forces to sponsor a professional development workshop for faculty concerning the incidence of micro-aggressions at UNH.
     ▪ Encourage commissions to plan joint initiatives with the University Council on Inclusive Excellence and Equity.
     ○ Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of current commission member recruitment strategies to assure a broad spectrum of members and cross-campus support.
     ○ Establish joint co-chair meetings once a semester.

III. UPDATE FROM SARAH BRAIS
   ▪ Sarah Brais, chair of the UNH chapter (student organization) for Best Buddies, thanked the commission for financially supporting her participation in the July, National Best Buddies Conference in Saint Louis where she gained insights and practical knowledge about running a local chapter. During the Fall semester the group will be recruiting new members and will co-host a campus Halloween party with Silver Wings.

IV. NEW BUSINESS
   ▪ Georgia has invited Todd DeMitchell, Chair of Faculty Senate, to meet with this commission to discuss ideas for garnering more faculty involvement in commission initiatives.
   ▪ Continued discussion was held regarding development of a Facebook page. The Department of Social Work uses Facebook as a tool for sharing ideas, research and feedback. It serves as a great way to network with students and involve them in departmental and organizational initiatives.

V. UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

PROGRAMMING WORKING GROUP (Dani, Georgia, Judy, Janis, Kathy Berger, Sylvia, Chandler, Kristin, Linda, Elaina)

• Events and Programs: The commission has been listed as a supporter on promotion materials for two upcoming MUB Lectures (1) Jonathan Mooney, scheduled for November 6, 7:00-8:00pm, and (2) Michael Hingson, scheduled for November 13, 7:00-8:00pm.
  ▪ This group is also working on development of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities event, scheduled for November 19, 4:00-6:30pm, MUB Theater II.
• Employee Based Training: this group is continuing their work on cataloging a list of existing trainings across campus.
- Suggestion was made to reach out to the Diversity Advisory Group, based out of Mark Rubinstein’s office. This group offers a series of trainings/professional development opportunities.
- May also want to include Anne Kane in discussions who is the Transitions Coordinator for adolescent students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are transitioning into the workplace. Anne has worked on trainings for staff in Dining and Facilities.
- Questions remain on objectives from this initiative – Will the commission be responsible for designing course content and locating training facilitators, or serving as advocates for the need for training and desired outcomes?

- **First-Year Program:** no report provided

**PHYSICAL ACCESS WORKING GROUP** (John, Lonn, Jeff, Doug, Wendy)
- John reported that a computer engineering student is now working with the GIS office on creating the pop-up feature for the Accessibility Map.
- Wendy reported that she has been working with Marshall White, Information Technology Manager, on consolidating a proposal to SARC as a barrier removal project, to seek funding to provide ALS in all large lecture halls and assembly areas.

**COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP** (Mariah, Janice, Kirit, Cathy Coakley, Nate)
- This group reviewed the three scripts for the video and discussed videotaping options. The group will plan to begin videotaping during spring semester involving WildActs as facilitators.
- The group also reviewed the draft of the award description. The draft will be sent out to all members prior to the next meeting with the aim of posting the description on PAWS in November.

Respectfully submitted

Janice Pierson

Meeting Schedule: Oct 15, Nov 12, Dec 10, Jan (no mtg), Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6