I. Minutes and Membership

- Members voted to approve the October minutes as amended. Wendy asked that the location for the new gender-neutral restroom in the MUB (as noted under item II, bullet-point 5) include the additional information “the restroom is located near the entrance doorway closest to the Hood House side of the building which is on the 3rd level.”
- Members voted to accept Lonn’s proposal that Karen Gilbert be included as a member of this commission as she is now the Director of Military and Veterans Services.

II. Current Business and Updates

- Tobey reported on a proposal/request from the NH Children’s Behavioral Health Workforce Development Opportunity. The proposal asks for the university to conduct a study of how one or more of its undergraduate or graduate programs of study align with the NH Behavioral Health Core Competencies and whether these areas of study will meet the needs of the workforce goals of the training collaborative.
  - After discussion, members suggested that Tobey follow up with the School of Health and Human Services, the Education Department, the Counseling Center and the Institute on Disability as this proposal would be better served by developing a multi-disciplinary approach rather than having this commission taking the lead on the proposal.
- Tobey also reported on the recently passed legislation Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that legislates vocational rehabilitation administration and services provided. Its focus is on promoting competitive employment opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities. The new Act requires schools to start working with youths at an earlier age (16-21 years of age). 15% of the state’s vocational budget must now be spent on pre-employment services and post-secondary education awareness-raising for students with disabilities. Among other services being provided it could include resume writing workshops, career exploration, development of independent living skills and learning skillsets for self-advocacy for accommodations. As one of the largest employers in the State of NH, UNH has a role to play.
  - Suggestion was made that the commission could do its part by revisiting the proposal for developing a summer camp program.
- Georgia reported that the group that has been working on bringing the documentary film Darkness and Light is continuing in its efforts to find a date during spring semester that would accommodate the producer’s schedule, the photo showcase and the video premier.

III. Updates from Other Groups and Offices

Awards Task Force: Lonn reported that no meetings took place during the last month.

Community Task Force: Janice reported that there was a high turnout for both Durham Campus Conversation sessions; however, as noted by members who attended, there was little mention in the
small group discussions of universal design and other advances for improving campus life and work areas for staff and students with disabilities. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec 7th.

**Disability Student Services**: Mike reported that his office is working with IT in revising their web site content and components of Clockwork. He welcomes any feedback that members would like to provide. He has also been working with Housing on revising the practices and protocols for ESA (emotional support animals). He noted that there are distinct differences between service animals, and therapy or emotional support animals and pets. Therapy and ES animals can be any creature and are not necessarily trained but are used as a tool to bring comfort/support to assuage aspects of a person’s disability. ES animals are only allowed in the housing areas of campus. On the other hand, service animals are specially trained dogs that provide a service and are covered under ADA guidelines, and they are permitted to travel throughout campus. DSS will continue to be the point of contact for request of ESA accommodations.

**EEO/ADA Compliance Officer** – Wendy reported that SARC provides her office $100K/year to execute barrier removal projects (installation of automatic door openers, parking area improvements, restroom accommodations, etc.). She is getting ready to submit project proposals for the coming year and invites members to contact her with their project ideas. She noted that instructional equipment is not a category considered under SARC; instead classroom/instruction-related equipment is addressed by the Registrar and other groups. Further, curb cuts are the responsibility of UNH, and Facilities takes care of funding these projects.

**IV. Updates from Working Groups**

**Programming**: Members were asked to promote tomorrow’s Equality and Access Fair, 11:30-1:30pm, MUB 156/158. A reminder, that Spencer West will be speaking in the MUB tomorrow night at 7pm in the Strafford Rm.

**Accessibility**: Wendy noted that graduate student Minori Stefon has been hired by the Office of Community, Equity and Diversity to work with this group and GIS to find a grant that will be used to offset the costs of developing the building interiors application for the Accessibility Map.

**Communication**: A review of the text used for the Disability Commission Award is being made as well as a promotion plan aimed at soliciting nominations.

Respectfully submitted

Janice Pierson