President’s Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities  
October 13, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bonnie Barlow, Wendy Beckwith, Mariah Bellington, Doug Bencks, Chandler Bullard, Cathy Coakley, Sylvia Foster, Linda Gutman, Erica Hochberg, Georgia Kerns, Jeff Parsons, Tobey Partch-Davies, James Piet, Lonn Sattler, Mike Shuttic, Judy Stevens, Catherine Welter  
Guest: Anna Brennan-Curry, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Institute on Disability

I. Minutes 
- Members voted to approve the September minutes as written.

II. Current Business and Updates 
- Georgia brought forth a motion for the commission to co-sponsor an event with film artist Thi Linh Wernau to talk about her documentary “Darkness and Light: A Human Conversation with Eleven Wounded Veterans”.
  - Members voted to approve the motion.
  - Information on financial obligations will be forthcoming once the event logistics are settled.
  - Event is being planned for spring.
- Tobey reported the unfortunate news that UNH was not selected as a grant recipient for the Department of Education’s Transition Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities. She will report back to the commission once she receives the evaluation from the review committee with their analysis for school selections.
- Mike reported that DSS has posted the assistant tech/disability specialist position on the UNH job site along with other sites that specialize in hiring persons with disabilities.
- He also clarified that DSS assists all students regardless of temporary or permanent disability status. However, since each situation is unique, he advised members to inform students to make an appointment with DSS to discuss their best course of action and needs assessment.
- Wendy reported that a new lactation room has been opened in the MUB as well as a single use restroom. Both are located on the 3rd floor near the entryway.
- She has also been working with UNH Police to create a voluntary employee registry to provide employee assistance during emergency/evacuation situations. She has a group of 6 volunteers who are part of a focus group, and they will be working on refining the process, reviewing the forms and developing a communication plan for the registry.

III. Updates 

Awards Task Force 
- A spreadsheet has been set up on Box to catalogue the list of commission-related awards. They are also working on securing the URL “awards.edu”
- Although the awards portal will not be completed by December as was planned, commissions should move forward with planning their traditional awards/recognitions. Commissions should revert to using the UNH Nominations Service (PAWS) for the nomination process.

Task Force on Community 
- All members are encouraged to participate in one of the upcoming campus-wide conversations scheduled for Nov 12, 4:30-6:30pm, Huddleston Hall; and, Nov 13, 12-2pm, MUB Strafford Room.
- Kei and Tobey who are serving on the Task Force, reported their concern that there has been little mention/feedback that explicitly addresses topics related to people with disabilities.
Members were reminded to review the email sent out by Kei and forward their questions, concerns, and comments to her soon.

Advisory Council for Community, Equity and Diversity
- Mike and Sylvia reported that council members were provided with an overview of the new collaborative fund and the application form from Jaime Nolan.
- The council will be working on drafting the next phase for the Diversity Strategic Plan as the current plan’s term expires soon.
- Jaime reported that several meetings have been taking place regarding reinstating the administrative support position for the Global Race and Ethnic Studies program.

IV. After time spent in working groups – each group reported out the following goals and updates

Program Working Group
- Promotion of Spencer West MUB Current Lecture Series for Nov 18th. Flyer will be sent out soon to all members – please distribute widely. Sylvia is checking with Dave Zamansky to see if the commission can select the person/s to introduce Spencer.
- Working on plans for the International Day for Persons with Disabilities program.
  - Work on including a tabling event to feature technical tools for access as well as reps from student organizations (those whose service missions are geared toward assisting and advocating on behalf of persons with disabilities).
  - Work on including a tabling event in the Food Court area for IOD and the commission along with other representatives located in other areas of the MUB.

Accessibility Working Group
- Wendy reported that members of this working group along with Facilities plus Grounds and Roads have developed a project called “Snow Cat Mobility Routes”. There will be two routes that will be plowed every hour (during snowstorms from 6:00am to 10:00pm). Routes/loops are connected to all of the major accessible entrances to the main academic and buildings of significance on campus (including dining halls, residence halls, Whittemore Center, Field House).
  - One of the ongoing challenges will be coordinating with Housekeeping to assure that doorways are cleared of snow. Cleaning staff works various shifts, and their work schedules and responsibilities may not always meet the same timelines for snow clearance as Grounds and Road crews.
- Group will also work on finding funding and staff to complete the next phase of the Accessibility Map.

Communications Working Group
- They will be focused on bringing more awareness to the “How to Request Accommodations for Staff and Faculty” video that is posted on the HR website.
- Working on a promotion plan for the Commission’s Disability Support Award.
- Continuing to post current articles of interest and stories on the Inclusive Excellence Facebook page to initiate more awareness/conversations on issues affecting persons with disabilities.
- Continuing the update of the commission’s web site with new photos and features.

Respectfully submitted
Janice Pierson