

New year, New names

Disability Services for Students adjusts official title

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With the first week of classes in the past, students may have noticed something different in their syllabi as they prepare for the upcoming semester. The office for students with disabilities, formerly known as Disability Services for Students (DSS), has adapted a new name. These services are now included in what is called Student Accessibility Services (SAS).

Although changing the name of DSS has been a topic of discussion over the past year or two, according to the director of SAS, Michael Shuttic, the change officially went into effect early on in the summer of this year on July 1.

“The reason behind the name change was to better reflect the mission and philosophy of the office, as well as to attempt to remove stigma related to contact with the office,” Shuttic said.

According to the SAS website, “Student Accessibility Services (SAS) seeks to create a welcoming, inclusive, universally accessible community where everyone is able to participate fully in the myriad aspects of the UNH experience.”

Since the start of his career as Director of SAS, Shuttic has made efforts over the past two years to address the topic of accessibility in a broader way across the UNH campus in order to include the needs of all students.

SAS currently maintains a universal design approach, which intends to address individuals in a holistic manner, recognizing and appreciating diversity, especially diversity in ways of learning. Shuttic explained that in terms of the universal design approach, what may be considered an accommodation generally serves the needs of many,



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which goes along with the reasoning behind the name change.

“The name change helps underscore those efforts as we partner across campus to increase accessibility,” Shuttic said.

SAS has taken on some efforts in order to ensure that the UNH community is aware of the name change and the purpose of it. Presentations, representation at events such as orientation, and Memorial Union Building televisions and table tents have all been a part of the efforts to spread the news.

As for what’s in store for the academic year, Shuttic explained that efforts are presently on keeping up with the increased demand and activity of SAS. Currently there are approximately 2,000 students connected with the office.

“Included on our to-do list are: help address better access and a process for creating accessible instructional materials, outreach efforts via Brown Bag meetings, a Sonocent Notetaking pilot program, social skills needs workshops and possible summer orientation program,” Shuttic said.

The office of SAS is located in Room 201 of Smith Hall on 3 Garrison Avenue. The office’s hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.