

Disabilities Issues Committee

April 19, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration or the Board of Regents.

[**In these minutes:** Update on Proposed Charge Changes; Report on Center for Educational Innovation Disability Resources; Updates on Faculty Training; New Business]

PRESENT: Peggy Martin (chair), Kim Doberstein, Maki Isaka, Andy Hillis, Maki Isaka, Donna Johnson, Betsy Kerr, Ryan Machtmes, Libby Parker, Heather Peters

REGRETS: David Johnson, Perry Moriearty, Anna Mosser, Lars Oddsson

ABSENT: Buck McKay

GUESTS: Gail Myers, director, Disability Resource Center, University of Minnesota Crookston; Victoria Nelson, director, Contract and Disability Parking, Parking and Transportation Services

1. Update on Proposed Charge Changes

Chair Peggy Martin called the meeting to order and began with an update on the proposed changes to the committee charge. She informed members that the Senate Committee on Committees had suggested some minor changes to the proposed updates, and that she and Katherine Murphy had consulted and decided that the changes were minor enough to approve them without a further vote. Members agreed that this was fine. Martin said that the proposed changes to the charge and membership would go to the University Senate for a vote at its May 2017 meeting.

2. Report on Center for Educational Innovation Disability Resources

Martin reported that in her capacity as chair, she met with Bob Rubinyi, senior analyst for online learning, Center for Educational Innovation (CEI). Their meeting covered three main topics:

- Canvas versus Moodle: Accessibility is being considered in the decision about whether to move from Canvas to Moodle, and the Disability Resource Center (DRC) has been involved in these discussions. CEI is committed to supporting universal design.
- Proctorio: The University has purchased a one-year license for [Proctorio](#), an online proctoring service, and will conduct a pilot of up to 10,000 users. Features of this service include visual monitoring of test takers via webcam, the opportunity for test takers to ask

questions of proctors, and mechanisms to monitor behavior, browser use, etc., in order to ensure integrity of exams. The pilot program will focus on courses that are 100% online, but CEI is open to incorporating accommodated testing. The pilot will begin in August 2017. Donna Johnson noted some concern about accommodated testing through Proctorio, as it may not work well for students with visual impairment, disabilities affecting dexterity, and disabilities that cause unconventional movements. However, she said, it would be great for students with many other disabilities.

- Online Program Faculty Support Task Group: Scott Marshall, associate director, DRC, and Bob Rubinyi are co-chairing this task force, which is looking at faculty training and buy-in for universal design in online education.

Martin said she would invite Rubinyi to visit the committee in the fall to give an update on these and other initiatives.

3. Updates on Faculty Training

Martin requested an update from the work group that had volunteered to work on creating training around disability issues for faculty and staff. Ryan Machtmes reported that he had met with Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education Scott Lanyon regarding including the training in new faculty orientation, and Libby Parker reported that she had talked to around nine student videographers who were willing to work on this project. She also met with Joelle Stangler, former Minnesota Student Association president, who had worked on videos on student mental health. The committee offered many suggestions regarding the training, including:

- Including student narratives
- Addressing the differing needs of undergraduates and graduate/professional students
- Addressing perceptions about disability versus the realities
- Stressing that the responsibility to create a welcoming and accommodating environment for students with disabilities belongs to everyone, not only the Disability Resource Center
- Including faculty talking about best practices
- Creating a catalog of short videos on different topics
- Creating a marketing plan to get the word out about the training and encouraging people to engage with it
- Integrating the trainings into recurring training such as new employee orientation, new faculty training, student orientation, etc.
- Making sure system campuses are represented and visible, as well

Donna Johnson offered to convene a meeting with the members of the work group (Parker, Machtmes, Kim Doberstein, and herself) as soon as possible in order to determine what, if any, work can be done over the summer. Martin observed that it would be good to take advantage of the current momentum around student mental health in order to mobilize these trainings, and

Johnson suggested aiming for a product by the end of November 2017. Heather Peters mentioned that there is a group at Morris that may be able to work on this, as well.

4. New Business

Martin introduced Victoria Nelson, director, Contract and Disability Parking, Parking and Transportation Services, who reported that customized rides program through paratransit work well. Parking and Transportation Services piloted a program that would pick up groups of paratransit riders at the East River lots in the early morning, but ridership was low, and as customized riders work well, the group ride pilot was discontinued. Nelson also reported that a renovation of Fraser Hall into chemistry labs was slated to begin construction in 2020, and that she had expressed concerns to the design team regarding a proposed decrease in accessible parking, decreased accessibility between Appleby and Fraser Halls, and the paratransit pick-up location in front of Fraser forcing the vehicle to cross the Washington Avenue Bridge. Martin mentioned that the committee could write a letter of support for these concerns and possibly make a statement emphasizing the importance of considering paratransit drop-off and pick-up locations during new building designs. Nelson said that the designers had been receptive to her concerns, but that committee support could not hurt. She suggested doing this in the fall.

Andy Hillis referenced an article that had been distributed to the committee about wheelchair users looking at colleges and taking college tours. She wondered what the experience was like at the University for prospective students with disabilities. Johnson confirmed that Admissions takes accessibility into account when creating tour routes. She added that accessible housing is a frequent concern, but that prospective students who inquire often end up enrolling in the University, so things seem to be going well. Machtmes shared that when he was looking at graduate programs, his department did not proactively provide information on accommodations, and that he had to set up an appointment with the DRC. However, he said, once one examines the available accommodations, the University comes out ahead of many peer institutions. Gail Myers, director, Disability Resource Center, University of Minnesota Crookston, reported that prospective students with disabilities and their families often come to meet with her in person.

Peters brought up the issue that the mental health resources at Morris are not meeting the demand, and this is translating to increased referrals to the Morris DRC for mental health accommodations. She wondered if this was an issue at other system campuses.

Martin thanked members for their service over the year and adjourned the meeting.

Amber Bathke
University Senate Office

