

## **Disabilities Issues Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

10:00 ~ 11:30 a.m.

Morrill Hall, 238A

[In these minutes ~ Martin Luther King and diversity events and promotion; how diversity will fit into the restructuring of the Graduate School; a visit by Professor Alex Lubet, chair of Disability Issues Committee]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

**Present:** Alex Lubet (chair), Miriam Krause, Amber Mayer, Frank Symons, Carol Rachac, Joanna O'Connell, Kimberly Simon, Donna Johnson, Michelle Jones, Carla Tabourne, Dale Branton, Tammy Berberi,

**Regrets:** Joanie Tool, Mary Muwahid

**Absent:** Peggy Mann Rinehart, Julia Robinson, Susan Rose, Brittany Parkman

Chair Lubet informed members that the Society of Disabilities Studies (SDS) will be sharing office space with the Ahead Program. He said that the Ahead Program was formulated after a medical model organization and does not think the two programs are all that compatible. He thinks it would make more sense for the SDS to be housed along with Disabilities Services.

Lubet said that there will be a June 4<sup>th</sup> training for the staff of Disabilities Services presented by Wendy Harbor with the SDS at Coffman in the Mississippi Room. He said the purpose of the training was to help staff reconnect with the roots, direction and purpose of Disabilities Services. He said Donna Johnson from Disabilities Services will have more information about the training coming out in the near future. He stated that the University's SDS is a flagship program for disabilities issues across the country.

Lubet said he thinks it a good idea to meet with people in the Office of Equity and Diversity to discuss the advent of a disabilities studies minor. He said that Minnesota has a strong tradition in interdisciplinary studies and the time is now for disabilities studies to be a part of that tradition. He noted that there are differing opinions on graduate and undergraduate degrees in disabilities studies and said the intent is to create a graduate degree but that undergraduates would constitute part of the enrollment. Lubet reminded members that there will be an all-day retreat for a select interdisciplinary group of staff and faculty to discuss creating a proposal for a graduate minor in disabilities studies.

Chair Lubet informed members that he was invited to and attended the March meeting of the Equity, Access & Diversity Committee (EAD). He said EAD is considering two resolutions but they are not yet complete.

1) They would like to see diversity issues incorporated into the Graduate School Education Work Group Reports. Members of EAD said the report is lacking in any mention of diversity and access into their reorganization reports and want diversity, equity and access components of the Graduate School to remain in tact.

2) A Martin Luther King Day events report was produced by an EAD subcommittee to look at the amount and types of events offered on campus as well as the promotion of those events and how the University compares to other universities. In their opinion, the University could and should do more to offer and promote MLK Day events.

Lubet said that Irene Duranczyk, chair of EAD, asked if the members of the Disabilities Issues Committee would like to support these proposals and noted an increase in supporters would add strength to their proposals. Lubet said Duranczyk would forward finalized versions of the proposals when they are complete for members to review. Ms. Krause moved to communicate that the Disabilities Issues Committee supports the mission of EAD's proposals on equity and diversity at the Graduate School and increased MLK Day events. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Chair Lubet announced that his term as chair for the Disabilities Issues Committee will come to an end on June 30<sup>th</sup>. He said he would like to see the link between the Disabilities Issues Committee and EAD continue. Dale Branton announced that he would be chair of the committee next year.

Members discussed the upcoming special Faculty Senate meeting. There was concern that the pay cut would disproportionately affect under-represented groups and contemplation of the possibility of a sliding fee scale pay cut wherein the proportion of cut is determined by income. Professor O'Connell said she would email the URL out to members for the Senate meeting information and results. She continued, stating that logistically, it is easier for payroll to make a universal change for staff rather than on an individual basis because that would simply be too difficult to administer.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Lisa Towry  
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