

## **SENATE DISABILITIES ISSUES COMMITTEE**

Monday, May 15, 2000

Regents' Room, Morrill Hall

11:00 AM

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** James Carey (chair), William Durfee, Dave Fuecker, Virgil Mathiowetz, Amanda Perlman, Julie Sweitzer, Jessica Voigts, Kimerly Wilcox, David Wuolu

**REGRETS:** Deborah Brown, Harvey Carlson, Paula Knutzen, Barbara Leonard, Elizabeth Lightfoot, Ken Myers, Suann Mitchell, Vicki Nelson, Joe Reichle

**GUESTS:** Bobbi Cordano, Phil Kragnes

**OTHERS:** NONE

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

[In these minutes: Discussion with the new Director of Disability Services, Phil Kragnes about Library Catalog Access, and the SHAC Resolution; Subgroup status reports]

#### **1) Chairís Report**

Professor Carey informed the committee that the proposal to eliminate the Disabilities Issues and Equal Employment Opportunity for Women committees and form a new Equity, Access, and Diversity committee was not approved by the University Senate at its April 20 meeting. Since that meeting, the Senate Consultative Committee (SCC) has suggested that the Disabilities Issues Committee remain intact and the charge to the Equal Employment Opportunity for Women Committee be expanded to include those areas not currently represented at the Senate level.

**2) Approval of March 20, 2000 Minutes:** The minutes were approved as amended.

#### **3) Introduction of the new Director of Disability Services**

Professor Carey introduced Bobbi Cordano to the committee as the new director of Disability Services. Ms. Cordano then provided the committee with information about herself:

- She has been the director since the beginning of June.
- Her previous position was that of an assistant attorney general and she worked in the charity division and headed the implementation of the ADA.
- She has been involved with ADA negotiations at the national level.
- She is a charter member of the Metro Deaf School.
- The major issue before Disability Services is attitude and not just access.

- She will attend the first committee meeting of the next academic year to share issues before her area as well as the strategic plan of the areas that report to Disability Services.

The committee then discussed assessment at the college level with Ms. Cordano:

- Ms. Cordano indicated that consideration has been given to this issue and it has been suggested that screening take place at the high school level since associated costs must be handled by the school district and not the student.
- Dave Fuecker provided general guidelines that are used for documenting disabilities.
- It costs \$900 for a full assessment.
- Results of assessment tests that were conducted at the high school level can be carried over to college if there have been no significant changes in the individual's disability status.
- Pete Lund handles all screening and assessment at the University and he has produced a report which shows that 46 individuals were screened and 13 completed the assessment process during the period 6/1/99 through 12/31/99.
- A similar report will be produced on an ongoing basis to implement continuous review and monitoring of the program.

#### **4) Library Catalog Access Discussion - Phil Kragnes**

Phil Kragnes informed the committee that there are various issues linked with access to the new Library catalog system:

- The current web interface is screenreader friendly and the Library will extend Lumina at least through the summer.
- The new site is confusing in that the labels do not match the intent, but those are easily fixable.
- Apparently, the server is capable of e-mailing search results, but it is not functioning at this time.
- Henner-Joyce has provided information on how to adapt screenreaders to the new web interface, but it is a very complex procedure that most people will not be able to complete.
- The new web interface is geared towards Windows-based screenreaders, but most people still use Dos-based screenreaders with their home machines.

Comments:

- Those who use a dos-based version of Zoom Text will have the same problem accessing the new web interface since the text will be magnified but the speech component will not be compatible.
- This is a significant issue for individuals accessing the catalog away from the University since at least 70% of screenreader users use a dos-based system.
- The issue could be resolved if the University provided both the old and new interfaces.
- Appropriate planning procedures should be implemented so issues similar to this one will not arise because precautions would be taken during development.

- Julie Sweitzer, Bobbi Cordano, Phil Kragnes, and David Wuolu will meet over the summer to develop a proposal on general implementation guidelines for technology services to the central administration that would resolve this issue.
- A status report will be presented to the committee in the Fall.

#### **5) SHAC Resolution - Amanda Perlman (see below)**

Amanda Perlman informed the committee of the status of a resolution that was developed by the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC):

- With slight modifications, several organizations have ratified the resolution.
- The resolution relates to health and safety during building design and construction.
- The resolution was presented to Eric Kruse and various owners representatives.
- The resolution has been sent to the Office of Student Development along with a letter that outlines various steps to incorporate the stipulations outlined in the resolution.
- Hopefully, Facilities Management will be able to provide a progress report to the SHAC by Winter 2001.
- A copy of the letter sent to the Office of Student Development will be distributed to the committee so that further consideration can be given to this issue in the upcoming academic year.

#### **6) Update on Subgroups' Activities**

##### Courses - Kim Wilcox

- Marj Schneider, who previously taught the disabilities issues class, will draft a history of the course to aid in the development of a new course.
- There has been no response to the letter sent to the Council on Liberal Education requesting that the cultural diversity theme definition include reference to disabilities issues.
- A survey will soon be sent to instructors of courses that meet the cultural diversity theme to determine if any current curriculum includes reference to disabilities issues.

##### Paratransit Services - Amanda Perlman

- Services will continue through the inter and summer sessions and a study will be conducted to determine actual usage by each University group (faculty, staff, or students).
- The service will be dropped if there are not at least 50 passengers per week.
- The committee should raise awareness of the continued service so that usage will increase and the service will not be dropped.

##### Facilities Management - Julie Sweitzer

- Although the Universal Design concept has been presented to Facilities Management, it must also be presented to the Planning area in order to get the concept incorporated earlier into the process.
- The concept has not yet been presented to the Planning area because the Planning and Facilities Management areas are separate, with different reporting lines.
- The concept must be presented to the Planning area since they handle preliminary procedures before Facilities Management and the Universal Concept must be incorporated into the process as early as possible.

#### Parking/Meters - Amanda Perlman

- During a recent presentation to the Board of Regents, it was noted that parking and meter spaces are decreasing due to construction and restoration of all of those spaces after construction is uncertain.

#### PeopleSoft - Jim Carey

- There still has been no response to the memo that was sent to the HRMS director.

#### Publicity - Jim Carey

- The committee would like to increase awareness of disabilities issues around campus, possibly through periodic MN Daily coverage.
- Currently, the new employee and student orientations are not accessible and do not include a Disability Services booth.
- The committee will further consider the issue during the upcoming academic year.

#### Health Sciences - Jim Carey

- Access to the Health Sciences area is no longer an issue for the committee since it has provided options to the involved departments so it is now up to them to follow through as they see appropriate.

### **7) Other Business**

Professor Carey commended the committee on their efforts and accomplishments made throughout the past academic year and indicated that meeting scheduling and agenda development would occur during mid-summer.

**8) Adjournment:** Professor Carey adjourned the meeting at 12:55 PM.

## **SHAC Resolution to Apply Concepts of Health and Safety in Building Design and Implementation**

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents Policy on Campus Health and Safety states, The University of Minnesota is committed to providing a safe, secure and healthy environment for its students, faculty, staff, patients and visiting public,

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents Policy on Campus Health and Safety states, Campus health and safety encompasses personal security and public safety, safe and efficient movement to and throughout the campuses, preservation of physical and fiscal resources, safe and healthful facilities, emergency management, and protection of the environment,

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Student Health Advisory Committee to monitor and assess the issues that affect the health of the University of Minnesota community,

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Student Health Advisory Committee to propose, develop, and support policies and programs that would improve the health of the University community

WHEREAS, the mission of Boynton Health Service states, good health is essential for long term academic, occupational and personal success,

WHEREAS, the construction, addition, and renovation of University buildings and surroundings influences the health of the entire University community,

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota must comply with the Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities of the Americans with Disabilities Act,

BE IT RESOLVED, that a University Student Building Advisory Board be created with membership from the University's existing student leadership and advisory organizations to address concerns of health, safety, and access of current and future buildings on the University of Minnesota campus,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University and surrounding community must implement safe access to both on campus health care services and parking for those services,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University utilizes all government resources, including the \*Accessible Rights-of-Way: A Design Guide.

\*148-page guide shows how existing ADA standards for pedestrian routes on sites can be adapted for application to sidewalks and street crossings. It provides best practices recommendations, along with the rationale behind them, for the design, construction, alteration, and retrofit of public pedestrian facilities. The Access Board has developed a four-part video series, an accessibility checklist, and a report on accessible pedestrian signals. These materials, including the new design guide, are available from the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) by calling (800) 872-2253 (v) or (800) 993-2822 (TTY) or e-mailing a request to [pubs@access-board.gov](mailto:pubs@access-board.gov).

Approved 4-6-00

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