

Disabilities Issues Committee
November 15, 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 represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration or the Board of Regents.

[**In these minutes:** Resolution on Required Training; Campus Climate Micro-Grant; Discussion of Accommodated Testing]

PRESENT: Betsy Kerr (chairing), Margaret Doom, Samantha Grover, Catherine Jacobson, David Johnson, Ryan Machtmes, Emily Norenberg, Heather Peters, Jayanthi Sasisekaran

REGRETS: Stephen Befort, Kim Doberstein, Andy Hillis, Matthew Hoekstra, Muhammad Khalifa, Peggy Martin, Aida Miles, Gail Myers, Shannon Zavada

ABSENT: Donna Johnson, Libby Parker

1. Resolution on Required Training

Professor Betsy Kerr, chairing in Chair Peggy Martin's absence, called the meeting to order. She thanked members for attending and went over the agenda. She then asked members to refer to a draft resolution on requiring training on disabilities issues for instructors and student services personnel that had been sent with the agenda. The item of business, she said, was to decide whether the committee wanted to pursue the resolution. Ryan Machtmes commented that the passing of the [Resolution on Equal Opportunity and Title IX Education](#) at the University Senate in spring 2017 had set a precedent for required faculty training that did not previously exist. Amber Bathke, senate associate, University Senate Office, informed members that the idea of an educational policy around accommodation letters had been brought up in the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), and Kerr observed that this may indicate that faculty would like training on how to handle these letters. Heather Peters supported the idea but said that it should be system-wide, and members agreed. David Johnson also supported the idea of requiring training, but expressed concern that the resolution focused on compliance, rather than supporting faculty in assisting students. Members agreed, and Kerr suggested convening a small working group to revise the resolution, ideally prior to the January 31, 2018, Disabilities Issues Committee meeting. Machtmes, Johnson, and Kerr volunteered to be part of this group, and Kerr suggested including Martin and Donna Johnson as well. Suggestions for revisions included shifting the focus from compliance to support; adding information about why the training is needed; including information on the outcomes of required training at other institutions, if applicable; and mentioning that when voluntary training was offered, it was not widely used.

2. Campus Climate Micro-Grant

Kerr asked the committee to weigh in on the idea of applying for a campus climate micro-grant to support the video project. Members agreed not to pursue this idea because the deadline to

apply was fast approaching, and if the videos were to be part of a required training, people felt that their creation should be centrally funded.

3. Discussion of Accommodated Testing

Finally, Kerr reminded the committee that there had been discussion of drafting a letter or resolution asking the University to take action on the lack of sufficient space for accommodated testing. She said that since the inception of this idea, Chief Compliance Officer Boyd Kumher, Office of Institutional Compliance, had initiated a task force to investigate this issue. Therefore, Kerr suggested inviting Kumher to a subsequent meeting in order to hear about the work of the task force before taking any further action on this item. Members agreed that this was a good idea.

Hearing no further discussion, Kerr adjourned the meeting.

Amber Bathke
University Senate Office