

ADA and Accessibility Advisory Committee (ADAAAC)

Minutes of March 9th, 2016

In attendance: Abigail Amisssah-Arthur, Jason Anderson, Kathy Barnes, Nelida Cortes, David Delgado, Cassie Franklin, Aura Hirschman, Jim Hill, Phyllis King, Mary Knasinski, Jason Kuiper, Kim Pietsch, Mike Priem, Brian Peters, Jean Salzer, Barb Simon, Zach Steuerwald, Tiffany Thornton, Beth Traylor, Erin Wiggins, Jeb Willenbring, Stephanie Zito.

- 1) Introductory Remarks/Announcements
 - a) Note taker – Volunteer Needed. Barb Simon taking the minutes.
 - b) Approval of February meeting minutes. Minutes of the last meeting were distributed, reviewed, and approved with no changes.

- 2) Disability related happenings, task forces, committees, etc.
 - a) Webinars – past month 2 webinars - -

Recent Webinars attended by several committee members were briefly summarized.

Several members attended two webinars focused on Electronic/Web accessibility. The webinars were titled, “A Blueprint for Building, Maintaining, and Improving EIT Accessibility” and “When the DOJ/OCR Makes a Visit: Lessons Learned in Resolving Complaints about Inaccessible IT”. This has become a prominent topic in disability services/ADA prompted, in part, by recent lawsuits against Harvard, MIT and Netflix for inaccessibility of their products. Universities across the country are working to make their websites more accessible. Website accessibility includes having all videos captioned and text descriptions for pictures, photos, graphs, charts, etc. UWM departments, schools and colleges need to make their websites accessible. EIT (Electronic Information Technology) encompasses every level of web development/use; from how websites are built, to D2L, to instructor’s postings. It was recommended in the webinars that schools develop a policy for EIT and accessibility.

There was also a webinar on “Free and Low Cost Assistive Technology” – a link is forthcoming.
 - b) Upcoming webinars: There are some upcoming webinars by AccessibilityOnline on higher education and the ADA. More information can be found at www.accessibilityonline.org. Link to specific session is under ADA Legal tab.
 - c) Conferences: The upcoming conference, WI AHEAD was announced. WI AHEAD is partnering with MN AHEAD to put on a joint conference (April 14-15 in MN).

Brian also mentioned another conference in July by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North American (RESNA) <http://www.resna.org/>

- d) Grant - A community outreach grant was submitted to [Industries for the Blind](#) by Jeb Willenbring and Aura Hirschman for funding to create a more accessible learning environment for students who are blind and taking classes in the mathematical sciences. Seed funds from IB could produce a competitive proposal to be sent to the National Science Foundation for a sustainable program thereafter. Funds would enable hiring of graduate students in Math and Occupational Therapy to assist blind students using assistive technology to access Math courses at UWM.

- 3) Cassie Franklin presented on accommodations for deaf and hard of hearing students and employees. She reviewed typical accommodations including American Sign Language Interpreters, cued speech, assistive listening devices, note takers, captioned media, and speech to text services such as CART and CPrint/Typewell. Cassie explained the differences between CART and Cprint (CART is word for word translation/ CPrint is meaning for meaning). Cassie noted the increased use of technology such as videophones, messaging/chat, cochlear implants, hearing aids have changed how deaf and hard of hearing individuals communicate. Cassie noted the DOJ (Department of Justice) Standards and “Effective Communication” document as a very helpful guide in providing accommodations. Jason Anderson noted that in a work environment, DHH employees can be creative and use resources that are readily available (such as VRS) and don’t necessarily need an interpreter for everything. Cassie mentioned the case of a medical student who was denied interpreters and won a lawsuit against the institution. She explained accommodations that might be used (other than interpreters) to assist medical staff in an operating room. (PDF of slides attached to this e-mail).

- 4) Disability Awareness Month October – Potential Program and Benefits Fair– ideas and planning. Sub-committee? Megan DuFrane, the ADAAC student representative, who works for Union Sociocultural Programming and also interns with ARC has offered to arrange a screening of the film, “Right Footed”, an inspiring film about Jessica Cox, the world’s first armless pilot and disabilities advocate.
It may be helpful for some ADAAC members to form a subcommittee to help plan this and other events... Aura mentioned collaboration with community organizations might be possible. Interested ADAAC members/participants may contact Aura or Beth.

- 5) Jean Salzer from Career Planning and Resource Center announced that they are in the process of establishing the Federal Workforce Recruitment Program here at UWM. There are 4 other UW Schools who have this program, and the Accessibility Resource Center has requested this program

be on our campus for many years. The program gives a chance for 8 students to have an interview spot for a Federal government job. They need to apply for the interview spot in May, and interviews are conducted in Fall. Jean noted that students must be within 18 months out from graduation in order to qualify.

- 6) Next meeting is April 13, there will be a presentation on D2L Accessibility by David Delgado, Learning Management System Administrator.
- 7) Future meetings? The committee will need to decide on whether to have a Summer meeting and when to have the Fall meetings. A survey will be sent out to all the members to find out the best times and dates for meetings.
- 8) Additional webinar added FYI - Shannon Aylesworth sent notice of a webinar:

[Higher Education: A Partnership in Online Accessibility](#)

Northern Essex Community College and Quincy College partnered with the Carroll Center for the Blind in their quest to achieve online excellence: This 60-minute webinar will highlight their journey.

When: March 17, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EST