

# **ADA and Accessibility Advisory Committee (ADAAAC)**

## **Minutes of May 11, 2016**

In attendance: Brian Peters, Susan Wolff, Cassie Franklin, Ben Fendrich, Zack Steuerwald, Jon Broskowski, Jason Anderson, Mary Knasinski, Barb Simon, Stephanie Zito, Diane Reddy, Megan DuFrane, Erin Wiggins, Kim Pietsch, Kathy Barnes, Abigail Amisah-Arthur, Tiffany Thornton, Stephanie Geidel, Jean Salzer, Aura Hirschman, Beth Traylor, Christopher Baumann, Jeb Willenbring.

### **1) Introductory Remarks/Announcements**

- a) Retirement announcement: Kathy Barnes – after 38 years
- b) Thank you to the interpreters (Nicole Keeler and Scottie Allen) and volunteer notetaker (Stephanie Zito)
- c) Approval of April meeting minutes – no changes requested.

### **2) Disability Related Happenings, task forces, committees etc.**

- a) ARC Excellence Awards - 1pm Today! Five staff members honored including Jeb Willenbring from the ADAAAC.
- b) Update on October events for Disability Awareness Month - Megan DuFrane: Film and Assistive Technology Demo/display. Screening film “Right Footed” on October 18<sup>th</sup> in the Fireside Lounge (Union) from 6pm-9pm. Will do a post-screening facilitated discussion if anyone is interested in being on the panel let Aura or Beth know. Looking for additional events if anyone has suggestions. More planning opportunities during the summer as well.
- c) UWM has been awarded a \$20,000 community grant from the industries for the Blind to start a tutoring program to help students who are blind/visually impaired with accessing math studies. Jeb Willenbring helped write the proposal. For now, the project coordinators will be soliciting applications for tutors to be a part of the program. The seed funding will hopefully be expanded once the program is up and running, possible look to the National Science Foundation for a grant. Anyone willing to help write future proposals is welcomed and appreciated.
- d) Wisconsin Association of the Deaf Legislative Day - Erin Wiggins (ASL Studies Department) commented on the efforts to get Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Wisconsin residents out to meet their legislators at the capital. The Deaf community have five priorities to discuss with representatives: Deaf education improvements, American Sign Language and language deprivation, employment issues in the D/HH community, emergency preparedness and communications during disasters and other times of crisis, and mental health initiatives to provide culturally competent services to D/HH individual with mental health needs.

- e) Centralized Coordination of Interpreting/Captioning Services - Cassie Franklin (Interim Assistant Director of ARC) mentioned after July 1st ARC will be taking over all campus service requests for interpreting and speech-to-text services.

### **3) National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – New Student Org - Ben Fendrich**

- a) Ben helped get this student org started and is joining the ADAAC as a student representative.
- b) Student organization hosts mental health panels, support groups, and other events:
  - Recent Events: Mental health panels on African American and Latino/a Mental Health.
  - Support Groups: Student-lead groups of 4-6 people. Not just for those who experience mental health. Want to get the word out for recruiting more student leaders and participants in general.
  - Future events: hoping to partner with more groups on campus.
  - May 14<sup>th</sup> “Walk for NAMI”: UWM has a team walking and the student organization has a sub-group if anyone is interested in joining.
- c) Ben will send handouts electronically to committee, in follow up to today's meeting.

### **4) Student Representative Chris Bauman**

- a) About to start serving on the Student Senate as Disability Inclusion Student Senator. (There was one student who preceded him in this role for the last year.) Chris will also serve as a student representative on the ADAAC.
- b) Chris and one other student on campus with a visual impairment are hoping to start a student org for students with visual disabilities or for those who have a disability in general.

### **5) Presentation on Accessibility of On-line Instruction by Diane Reddy, CETL**

- a) PowerPoint will be sent electronically to committee members.
- b) **Highlights:**
  - i) Universities recently had Office of Civil Rights (OCR) complaints brought on by students. University of Montana in the process of resolution changed their assumptions about accessibility issues. Pre-complaint assumptions versus post-complaint assumptions from the perspective of the University shows how disability services became more proactive and less reactive.
  - ii) Policy on syllabus announcement for disability services: **The ADAAC** committee discussed a standardized statement required by all professors to include with the class syllabus. Several suggestions were made such as avoiding the term “special” since special education is terminology for K-12 institutions. At the college level it is called “academic accommodations.”

- iii) Aura suggested having the ARC website be a resource for professors to find examples of syllabus policies they could copy and paste.
- iv) Another suggestion was to send to administrators, such as the Provost, so the information can be disseminated more widely.
- v) Cassie recommended that professors also consider student confidentiality when accommodations are being made.
- vi) Barb Simon offered that hard deadlines cannot be required for disclosure of disability. Once they have disclosed, the appropriate accommodations would be arranged, no matter when in the semester a student requests services.
- vii) Making websites, open textbooks, and other online academic resources accessible - Some professors utilize websites for supplemental instruction and not all are accessible to students with disabilities. Professors share a part in responsibility for ensuring access to classroom content. More discussion on departments supporting staff through this process.

**c) Some Questions raised:**

- i) How can UWM bring the post-complaint assumptions to campus without litigation?
- ii) How do we ensure we are focusing on all disabilities and not just obvious sensory/mobility disabilities?  
 Several comments were made about accommodations for students in the Autism spectrum. Some students very independent and others are very dependent on unique service requests like changing the classroom environment or having a parent with them at all times. Some students have more social than academic challenges on campus.
- iii) What is the process from student disclosure of disability to receiving accommodation services?  
 Barb explained the process step-by-step. She mentioned that ARC and CETL are creating a self-paced online course to bring the campus up to speed on accommodations and the Verified Individual Services and Accommodations (VISA) Plan. Questions about this process can be directed to Barb Simon (ARC Interim Director).

**d) Final Announcements**

- i) Survey respondents were largely in favor of having a summer meeting. A show of hands was favorable for the last week of August. Next ADAAC Meeting **set for** August 24<sup>th</sup> 10am-11am (ADAAAC Co-chairs will send the calendar request to everyone for Fall meeting time and dates.)
- ii) Detailed results of the recent ADAAAC survey will be sent to committee members and discussed at next meeting.

*ADAAAC Co-Chairs would like to thank everyone for participating on the committee!*