Committee on Access for Persons with Disabilities

Fall Semester Meeting, November 20, 2013


1. Wilson offered a thank you to individuals who had collaborated on the Thursday Commons Program entitled *Exploring Universal Design for Application in Online Learning Environments*. Twenty five persons participated including presenters, and evaluations offered valuable feedback for future work. Steve Hannah, Debi Race and Linnea Barton plan to offer a half day Universal Design faculty training in January prior to the beginning of the term. The focus will be on incorporating UD in existing course content including accessibility in Moodle, and in accessible documents and presentations. Date: TBA very soon.

2. Debi Race and Linnea Barton attended the Accessing Higher Ground Conference in Boulder, Colorado, during the first week of November. There were many take-aways from the conference for Debi including information on captioning technologies and the importance of formatting for ease of access. Barton reported on a resource available from the National Center on Disability and Access to Education (NCDAE). Through federal grant funding they are offering the GOALS program to the first 50 schools that sign up and we are fortunate to be accepted officially as of last week. GOALS, which stands for Gaining Online Accessible Learning through Self-Study, is a benchmarking and planning tool that provides a framework for administrators and institutional leaders to conduct a self-study of web accessibility. There is a blueprint to help institutions conduct this process and there will eventually be a means to provide accreditation for web accessibility through this process. Based on the team created for the recent Thursday Commons event the following individuals have been included on the team, but we are hoping to add more. Contact Linnea to be added to this survey.

   Laurie Wilson
   Linnea Barton
   Steve Hannah
   Debi Race
   Amber Bailey
   Jeff Sperling
   Michelle Christopherson

3. A motion was offered to request that the Director of the Center for Adult Learning or a designate be added to the Committee on Access for Persons with Disabilities as permanent member. The motion was seconded and approved. This will now be brought to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
4. OSD has been informed that the Accessibility of Information Technology policies are now co-owned by the Office of Information Technology and Disability Services. The policy and extensive explanations can be found at [http://accessibility.umn.edu/umn-policies.html](http://accessibility.umn.edu/umn-policies.html). On December 5, the U of M Executive Committee is expected to vote to adopt the W3C Web content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 AA as the standard for the university.

5. Grunewald, Feiro and Willhite offered an update on the current review of the Tobacco Free Campus policy. Several members of the committee suggested that there be a five year celebration recognizing the policy. Continued educational efforts are needed especially for international students who have no knowledge of the severe health risks associated with tobacco use. Enforcement options need discussion. Grunewald was asked to promote the resources for quitting and the stipends available for support. The 2013 College Student Health Survey Report showed that 75% of UMC students agreed or strongly agreed with the policy. This was the highest level of support across 26 Minnesota institutions of higher education. UMC has had its policy the longest.

6. Prof. Miller indicated that she had received feedback from students that the OSD website was difficult to navigate because it was connected to Career and Counseling which confused students. A new website was rolled out last semester and this problem was taken care of. The new site contains only essential information and is currently being reviewed for accessibility. Moving forward feedback will be sought for how to make continual improvements and include additional information. Wilson has been informed that a variety of disability statements are appearing on course syllabi some of which direct students to TC support. OSD will identify and widely disseminate the correct statement in time for spring term application.

7. Thanks to our student rep, Kayla Bellrichard. Kayla indicated that the tobacco policy is the main point of discussion at this time.

8. Wilson reported on fall term’s DS training as well as those scheduled for spring term. An informal session on successfully supporting students diagnosed with ADHD or ADD is scheduled for January 9 at 9:00 in the AAC. Jason Nupdahl of Riverview will present. All are welcome.

Adjournment