

Committee on Access for Persons with Disabilities
November 2, 2010

Present: O. Williams, K. Bowen, Mukku Venu, Les Johnson, T. Feiro, Michelle Ramstad for Tim Norton, Steve Hannah, Shawn Friedland, Linnea Barton, Megan Tollefson, Laurie Wilsons

New members, Dr. Mukku and Kara Bowen were welcomed. O. Williams facilitated the meeting.

The updated and revised Board of Regents Policy on Disability Services was disseminated and discussed. The policy affirms the U's commitment as an inclusive environment charged with enriching the academic and social environment for all members and guests. Discussion was focused on two areas including Part 1-D, 3 *selection of products and services that can be used by students, faculty, staff and guests with different backgrounds, learning styles, abilities, and disabilities consistent with the concepts of Universal Design, and 11-c, promote and practice adopting accessible media, technology, instructional methods, building design for new and renovated facilities, and procurement practices that are inclusive to students, faculty, staff and guests with disabilities.*

Wilson will disseminate the policy, post it and ask for assistance from faculty members to bring this to the Faculty Assembly.

Barton, L. Johnson and Wilson participated in the system-wide ITV DS meeting on October 7. DS staff reviewed newly formalized decision-making processes for determining accommodations: testing accommodations, housing accommodations, attendance and assignment flexibility, and documentation standards. Wilson reviewed housing and attendance and assignment flexibility with the COA committee, and will post (amended for the UMC campus) versions to the OSD web pages.

Michelle Ramstad reported on the Access Control Project underway for UMC in collaboration with the TC campus. The project identifies several key access points for after-hours or emergency entry that could only be accessed by electronic cards /card readers. Committee members expressed some concern about the lack of a route to Lot A parking from the mall side of the campus with the present plan. Members also asked about regular hour access at three sites: Dowell/Sahlstrom link site, Owen/SSC/Hill door and the Owen Nature Nook door. T. Feiro indicated that all are identified for eventual installation of auto assist doors. Shawn Friedland reported on a student concern regarding the lack of an auto assist door at the Dowell/Sahlstrom link site. He was also encouraged to have students report access concerns directly to Laurie Wilson or any member of the COA. Where possible concerns are dealt with promptly.

Steve Hannah presented on the Camtasia software for voice recognition and the potential usefulness of it for captioning video or online lectures. There are still many challenges to its effectiveness especially if faculty are not lecturing from a developed script. The lack of

captioning on educational products of all kinds continues to be a major barrier to access. Purchases through the library are screened based on available captioning and faculty are strongly urged to seek captioned materials on any educational materials that they select.

Linnea Barton is scheduled to attend the Accessing Higher Ground Technology for Access Conference November 17-21.

Wilson thanked M. Huglen for facilitating the inclusion of an arts and disability component through VSA Minnesota with the Institute for Advanced Study Conference that he spearheaded. Evaluations were very strong, and presenters expressed enthusiasm regarding the UMC event as well as the event at CHS the next day where 77 students and staff participated.

Wilson reported that 63 students with disabilities are active this term including 9 working at completing documentation. Students represent all disability groups.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

L. Wilson, recorder.