Committee Members Present: Les Johnson, Owen Williams, Stacey Grunewald, Ken Myers, Rich Connell, Steve Hannah, Matt Simmons, Gary Willhite, and Laurie Wilson. Guests present: Linnea Barton, Josh Parrill. Committee Members unable to attend due to class or lab conflicts: Karen Miller, Venu Mukku, Rand Rasmussen, students?

Owen Williams was elected to serve as Chair for this meeting.

Linnea Barton reported on the Virtual Conference being offered to the campus this week thru OSD. The conference is the 15th Annual Accessing Higher Ground Conference that features technology innovations and solutions for education and business. More than 70 sessions of interest are offered. Access to the virtual conference was purchased for the campus this year to evaluate it as a cost effective means of delivering this content. The virtual conference has been publicized widely on the campus and also to specific departments and faculty with the hope that many can benefit. Users are requested to provide feedback on the experience to OSD. Sessions will be electronically stored for later use as well.

Josh Parrill, on line course tutor coordinator, reported on the development of his work and the potential for him to be a resource to students with disabilities. Wilson indicated that Josh’s early communication with new students offers another opportunity for early contact and better support. Too often, online students with disabilities are contacting OSD only after a significant concern of some kind has developed. OSD seeks a variety of ways to make contact earlier.

Roberta Juarez, Physical Access Specialist, U of M System wide, spent a day at UMC last May assessing several of the campus buildings for physical access. The report of that visit will be posted along with the minutes of this fall 2012 meeting. Page four of the report offers a priority recommendation for action items. Rich Connell, UMC Facilities has spoken with Roberta and Roberta will also be an advocate for HEAPR funding for UMC projects. Some of the projects are quite costly but would qualify for HEAPR dollars, and others can be accomplished for minimal cost and time. Residential Life is committed to dealing with its action items by the end of the year and sooner if needed for student occupancy. Wilson noted that Roberta’s visit was beneficial in many ways and highlighted our need to be sure that all renovations and upgrades are thoroughly reviewed for physical accessibility, and that current access codes are met.

Gary Willhite reported on the expected completion of the new residence hall and that its opening might also offer some single room options for students.

Programming suggestions for spring 2013 included programming on hidden disabilities. Wilson and Barton will schedule. Fall programming included the service animal presentation with 101 in attendance and mental health awareness info table with 66 participants.

Sixty-three students have documented disability issues with OSD.

Thanks to all for ongoing partnership with OSD.

11/29/2012, Ken Myers elected as chair for the remainder of 2012-2013.