

ADA COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

May 22, 2020

Members Present: Thomas Kearns, Steve Bale, Jane Zhang, Jimmy Roque, Kara Potter and Helen Scott

Top Priorities for ADA Committee for Next Year

Thomas Kearns asked the group to make suggestions for the priority list for next year. The following ideas were discussed:

- What disability services are available for remote access and how issues that were discovered as a result of the new methods being implemented this semester are being addressed.
- Monthly accessibility trainings that are 5-15 minutes in length and available in a library list.
- Awareness for hearing impaired persons regarding wearing of facemasks and communication challenges of this group who lip read. Thomas Kearns added that he will check the National Deaf Association resources to see what they are recommending.
- Publicizing universal design examples on campus as a monthly feature.
- Creating a "resource center" for all things accessible on the TMCC website. Once built, ensure that the site is well publicized via the Marketing and Communications Office.
- Creating a standard "services to special needs populations" agenda item for Faculty Senate committees so they may address the topic as it applies to their respective areas.
- Identifying a reporting method that would assist the ADA Committee with collecting information from departments/committees regarding the overall health of accessibility in those areas. This information would then be compiled into a report to the college president.

Thomas requested that members write down any additional ideas and email them to him. He will compile the priorities list and share with the group. Steve Bale suggested sending the completed list in its entirety to the college leadership team so they may select the items(s) that leadership would like the ADA committee to focus their attention. The members agreed.

Committee Reporting Process

Thomas Kearns briefly reviewed the ADA Committee reporting process for the new members. He advised that the committee created a draft of a five year plan which included an annual status report to the college president. He will share the document with the new committee members so they may review and offer their feedback/input. The group also discussed the need for a vehicle for follow-up regarding compliance with the program and adding other enhancements to make it even more relevant to continue the forward momentum.

Thomas Kearns will send a copy of the draft of this year's annual report to the committee members for their review.

Training

Brandy Scarnati and Thomas Kearns are offering a Canvas course regarding creating accessible content beginning on June 1. The course is geared to faculty to provide a foundation for creating content that is universally designed and inclusive of all learners. To register contact Brandy Scarnati.

Thomas Kearns is also working with the Administrative Faculty Committee to create training geared for staff on creating accessible content.

Other Items

- Thomas commented that he received a VPAT from the Library which was very helpful.
- Jane Zhang reported that there are problems with the push button door openers breaking down. The group agreed that Thomas should move forward with submitting a replacement request.
- Helen Scott added that the Testing Center is working to move testing online where they are able. They are down one staff member who was called to active duty. They will rotate their remaining staff between working on campus and working remotely from home. Kara Potter reported that they now have a dedicated room at the Health Science Center campus that is used for testing.
- Thomas added that the DRC may have the opportunity to spread their staff out to other campuses in an effort to comply with social distancing measures that will also bring their services to other locations.
- Thomas Kearns asked the group to think about any suggestions they have to improve the group and if they would like to rotate the chair position/add the co-chair to the group again.

Meeting ended at 10:40 a.m.