



## President's Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

Spring Meeting

4/15/2021

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

VIA WebEx

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### MINUTES

- 1) Introductions and Welcome New Members! – All
  - Elizabeth Watson (UW-Whitewater), John Achter (UW System), Lyn Niemi (UW-Green Bay), Top Tantivivat (UW-Madison), Janelle Crowley (UW-Whitewater), Damira Grady (UW Oshkosh), Nichole LaGrow (UW-Green Bay), Ann Murphy (UW-Stout), Vickie Moerchen (UW-Milwaukee), Jessica Jones (UW-Madison)
  
- 2) Student Representative Nominee—Justin Wesolek (UW-Whitewater) – Elizabeth
  - Justin has been recommended and has expressed interest in participating. United Council of Students is not currently active so there is not a System body to submit a nomination, as has been past practice.
  - Members are supportive of Justin's nomination. Elizabeth will work with Student Government at UW-Whitewater to provide a more official nomination. John will then forward to President Thompson for appointment.
  - Consider future student nomination process to mirror that of faculty/staff—request for nominations go out to all campuses with deadline for consideration.
  
- 3) Progress Report on Fall Agenda Items – Elizabeth & John
  - a) ADA 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary recognition by President Thompson
    - UWSA website featured ADA30 highlighted content during the month of December 2020. This included a letter of recognition from President Thompson that continues to be linked on the Disability Resources website.
  - b) Recognition of Sal Carranza and Outgoing PACDI Members
    - Recognition for Sal is ready to go last week, but was delayed until May due to pandemic restrictions and construction issues at Van Hise. Elizabeth has alternate date scheduled

#### 4) Ongoing Topics - All

##### a) Evaluation/Assessment of Digital Maturity

- Disability Access Policy Revised, chaired by Elizabeth and Lynn 7 years ago, and need to think about reviewing and updating
- UW Madison participated in a 100-question digital maturity self-assessment a few years ago. Survey is over 100 questions
- Ultimately resulted in the Center for User Experience (2018) and Digital Accessibility Services
- Proposal is to conduct a similar assessment on all UW campuses with Chancellors appointing a cross-institutional team.
- Results could be summarized and used by PACDI to develop benchmarks, priorities, and goals
- Workgroup: Nichole, Jess, and Damira agreed to form team to review the Digital Maturity document and meet to provide feedback. Once questions are agreed-upon, John will work with System resources to create survey in Qualtrics
- Tentative Timeline:
  - Aug. 1, 2021 - deadline for workgroup to confirm survey questions
  - Sept. 1 – deadline for sharing Qualtrics survey with PACDI for review
  - Sept. 15 - deadline for PACDI to review survey in Qualtrics
  - Oct. 1 – send survey to campus teams
  - Oct. 27 – PACDI Fall meeting. Discuss strategy for reviewing results
  - Jan. 1, 2022 – deadline for survey completion
  - Jan. 13 – PACDI meets to review survey results and begin discussing plan for action plan recommendations
  - Apr. 21 – PACDI Spring meeting. Discussion of Systemwide policy/practice implications. Prepare report for President?

##### b) Technology Purchasing

- This is part of the digital maturity survey. No separate discussion needed today

##### c) Canvas/Kaltura – auto captioning option

- Lynn and Nichole shared an update regarding the request from UW-Green Bay and UW-Platteville that we enable auto-generated close captions in Kaltura. Response to informal survey by Renee Pfeifer-Luckett in the UWSA Office of Learning and Information Technology revealed some campuses wanted to turn on auto captions asap, and others wanted to wait until a communication plan was determined to ensure that faculty recognize auto captions do not meet standards for full accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
- PACDI members generally agreed that turning on accessibility features is an important first step in moving towards an inclusive learning community.
- Elizabeth will craft a statement for the DLE group emphasizing the importance of captions as a tool for access and inclusivity. All members will be invited to comment and revise before the final statement is shared with Renee Pfeifer-Luckett.

- 5) Governor's Councils: Deaf/HOH, Blind/Low Vision, Physical Disability
  - Elizabeth provided an overview of the three different councils and our group's connection to their work.
  - a) Feedback on campuses access – Elizabeth
    - Elizabeth shared several of the challenges that were made apparent through our campus responses to COVID, everything from inaccessible resources, to delayed sharing of braille resources, to challenges in home environments.
    - Several members shared specific experiences from their own campuses regarding the challenges our students experienced that resonated with the report.
- 6) Disability Services Annual Report – Ann, Lynn, John
  - John shared a copy of the 2019-20 report and reviewed key takeaways. A committee of disability/accessibility services directors led efforts to update the report to better reflect changes to their work in recent years. It is a work in progress and additional revisions are expected with the next report (due this summer). Features added this year included more narrative and longitudinal analysis to demonstrate trends.
  - Key takeaways included an increase in psychological and chronic medical conditions. Additionally, the report identified current staffing levels and discussion of gaps. There is a plan to share the report with the Regents in 2021-2022
  - The conversation led to ADA Coordinator roles on campus and whether a similar report could be created to summarize the status of efforts related to faculty/staff. We will table the conversation until October to address the concerns more strategically.
- 7) [UWS Policy Priorities Feedback](#) (due April 30)
  - Reminder that it is time for Colleges to share requests for policy review or policy creation. We may use this process next year as a response to the Digital Maturity survey.
  - John shared information regarding the new medical withdrawal policy that goes into effect in Fall 2021. Members could assist in advocating for a student-affairs/student-centered representative on their individual campus committee.
- 8) Future
  - We scheduled three meetings, October 27, 2021; January 13, 2022; and April 21, 2022.
  - All members should have been invited to a Teams Space to access materials, but we may not use the space as a workspace.
  - a) President Thompson attend Fall meeting
    - John will work with the President's office to get this on his calendar.

Notes respectively submitted by Nichole LaGrow