

Accommodations Review Board Committee Minutes

April 13, 2011

Present: Charlie Whitcomb, Demerris Brooks, Charlie Bullock, Oliver Deeley, Natalie King, Sheama Krishnagiri, VP Jason Laker (guest), Betty Luna, Cindy Marota, Robin Moore, Matt Rees, Lucille Surdi, Keri Simmons, Terri Thames.

Absent: Frank Belcastro, Anton Kashiri, Deanna Fassett, Chair Heidi Pendleton Matt Rees, and Sally Veregge

Welcome

Charlie Whitcomb Stand-in Chair on behalf of Heidi Pendleton who was unable to attend the meeting called meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes from 3/9/11

Betty Luna noted a typographical error in the minutes under the FD&O Director of Environmental Health & Safety Update. Charlie Bullock motioned to approve the minutes. Cindy seconded. All in favor.

DRC Reorganization

VP Jason Laker shared with the Committee the reorganized structure of the DRC. VP Laker discussed two problems with the previous organizational structure of the DRC: (1) work most heavily fell on DRC and (2) there was a lack of alignment between authority and responsibility. The reorganization was based on three thematic areas of work/issues performed by the DRC in its previous model: (1) institutional ADA compliance & policy; (2) technology; and (3) core services (student/employee accommodations). In following these thematic areas, the reorganization was made accordingly:

- Demerris Brooks, former Acting Director of DRC, is temporarily appointed to Special Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs (SAVPSA), and oversees the institutional ADA compliance & policy issues. As of July 1, 2011, Demerris will also resume responsibilities as the University Ombudsman. The ADA Compliance Specialist, Lucille Surdi, formerly reporting to the DRC Director, will now report to Demerris.
- Peter Deutsch, Senior IT Director for Student Affairs, will now oversee the Alternative Media Center (AMC), Adaptive Technology Center (ATC), and DRC IT; AMC, ATC and DRC IT employees, formerly reporting to the DRC Director, will now report to Peter.
- Cindy Marota, former DRC Associate Director, has been appointed Interim DRC Director.
- The Employment Accommodations Resource Center (EARC) will temporarily remain in the DRC until a better placement for the program can be determined. VP Laker shared he is waiting to discuss its placement with the new President.

- The Accessibility Coordinating Team (ACT), a collective management group tasked with overseeing campus accessibility issues, was formed. The ACT is comprised of the Cindy Marota, Demerris Brooks, and Peter Deutsch and will meet on a regular basis with VP Laker.

Committee Follow-up questions:

- Charlie Bullock inquired how the campus community will be informed of the reorganization. VP Laker stated because the changes are back-end infrastructural changes, they should not matter to the users of the services.
- Charlie Bullock asked what will happen to Demerris's role when she resumes the University Ombudsman position as of July 1. VP Laker stated Demerris will continue to keep her ACT and ADA compliance responsibilities when she returns University Ombudsman.
- Terri Thames asked if Demerris is the University's ADA Compliance Officer. VP Laker responded many people on campus are responsible for ADA compliance.
- Robin Moore asked what Demerris Brooks' title is. VP Laker stated Demerris's title is currently the SAVPSA, but as of July 1, she will be the University Ombudsman/ADA Compliance Officer.

Diversity Master Plan (DMP) Update

Demerris Brooks reported she informed Rona Halualani of the way in which the DMP was originally deliberated to the ARB Committee. Demerris conveyed it was unclear who was supposed to lead the Presidential Council effort when it was determined that Bill Nance was no longer the point of contact for that item and the DMP committee was aware of the existence of the ARB and intended for this to be an additional committee with broader membership. Rona will notify the ARB Committee if there are any recommendations for moving forward with the President Council as a result of her assessment.

Charlie Whitcomb stated creating another body responsible for oversight of the same issues may have drawbacks.

Action Item: Charlie asked Demerris to speak to Rona to ask that the ARB is determining the course of action regarding the creation of the Presidential Council.

Robin Moore inquired what the timeline for the completion of the assessment is. Demerris stated it was not specified.

Accessible Classroom Furniture Update

Lucille Surdi reported latest developments on the accessible furniture project: The proposal is near completion. After meeting with vendors, products that are the most accessible to a spectrum of potential users have been selected. Accessible tables will have the universal disabled symbol embedded in the tabletop to denote priority to individuals with disabilities. Phase one of the proposal will request funding to purchase 50 tables and 50 adjustable arm chairs. In addition, 5 bariatric chairs and 5 ergonomic chairs are included in the budget for special student accommodations. The process for implementation, delivery, and maintenance of the furniture is to be determined once the budget is approved.

Charlie Bullock inquired why the stations (table and chair) are called "universally accessible" in the proposal. Lucille responded the reason is because if the furniture is not being used by an individual with a disability, non-disabled individuals (i.e., persons of larger stature) can use the furniture if

needed. Charlie Bullock suggested the phases in the proposal are higher-impact. Charlie Whitcomb responded that because the proposal is to obtain a University budget line items for accessible furniture, it ensures funding for accessible furniture so that furniture can be purchased over time to eventually outfit the whole campus with accessible classroom furniture.

ATI Update

Charlie Whitcomb reported the ATI Committee is finally back together and the issues are still a priority. Provost Selter has met with all three sub-committees and has asked them to submit a progress report. The ATI Director position has now been filled at the Chancellor's Office. Charlie Whitcomb will continue to update the ARB Committee moving forward.

Charlie Bullock expressed frustration with the hold up on products that are under ATI procurement review. Charlie Bullock requested ATI accessible furniture updates are on the next agenda.

Due to disruption caused by a campus student rally, all agenda items following the ATI update were tabled for the next meeting and meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.