



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Minutes
Commission for Disability
September 29, 2020 – 12:30 PM

Attendees: Chancellor Donde Plowman, Vice Chancellor Tyvi Small, Dr. Janelle Coleman, Johnelle Simpson, Addie Welch, Dr. Adam Cureton, Austin Boyd, David Ndiaye, Dr. Elizabeth MacTavish, Dr. Emma Burgin, Dr. Eric Moore, Dr. Heather Hartman, Jill Malolepszy, Karmen Jones, Kinley Koontz, Riley Toll, Dr. Robert L. Spirko, Dr. Talisha Adams, Tarah Keeler, Stephanie Brewer Cook

Agenda Items Discussed

1. Introductions

- Vice Chancellor Tyvi Small thanked commissioners for their willingness to serve. The group was birthed out of an idea of the Student Government Association. VC Small encouraged the group to be an action-oriented group.
- Chancellor Plowman greeted the group and thanked them for being inaugural members of the Commission for Disability. Chancellor Plowman challenged the group to think big and become a leader in the nation on the topic of disability. Further, the Chancellor offered her support to the group with their initiatives and goals.
- Karmen Jones, Student Government Association President, and Austin Boyd, President of the Graduate Student Senate, thanked the everyone for the role they played in making the Commission for Disability a reality.

2. Discussion of Accessibility Efforts

- Dr. Heather Hartman provided the group with some history on disability work at the UT-Knoxville. In 2015, an Accessibility Implementation Team (AIT) came together and created the UT System Accessibility Policy. AIT also drafted an Accessibility Program for UT-Knoxville. The plan did not get enacted by any of the previous Chancellors but some of its initiatives have plan implemented.
- VC Small invited the group to resubmit the program to him and the Provost. Together, they would be the cabinet sponsors for the program. VC Small encouraged the group to create meaningful action items/goals each year and to move the needle in the area of disability.
- Dr. Hartman asked the group whether a subcommittee should update the program draft before presenting it to the Chancellor or whether the Chancellor should view the plan as is and strike anything she does not want to pursue. The consensus of the group was to have a subcommittee update the program and present the final draft to the Chancellor.

3. Role of Commission Chair

- Dr. Coleman expressed to the group that the chair is vital in determining the priorities of the group and helps keep the group accountable on goals/initiatives. The chair also elevates the

work of the group and amplifies it to campus stakeholders. Individuals nominated for the chair role should be a full-time UT employee. The term of the chair is one year. VC Small added that the chair would have significant access to the Chancellor in their role.

- The commission will operate under a co-chair model. The group will need to select two individuals for the role of co-chair.

4. Next Meeting and Timeline for Chair

- A doodle poll will be sent to schedule the next meeting.
- Topics of discussion for next meeting:
 - Update from Jill Molelepsy
 - Accessibility Around Online Learning
 - Timeline for Program Proposal to the Chancellor
 - Goals and Initiatives for the Academic Year
- ADA 30th Anniversary Event in October 2020