



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Commissions for Disability
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021 – 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Attendees: Co- Chair Dr. Rob Spirko, Co-Chair Jill Malolepszy, Dr. Janelle Coleman, Addie Welch, Dr. Adam Cureton, Austin Boyd, Dave Ndiaye, Dr. Elizabeth MacTavish, Dr. Emma Burgin, Dr. Heather Hartman, Kinley Koontz, Riley Toll, Tarah Keeler, Dr. Eric Moore, Stephanie Cook, Catherine Luther

1. Introduction and Minutes Approval

- a. The Co-Chairs called the meeting to order.
- b. Meeting minutes were approved from the February 15, 2021 Meeting

2. Updates from Co-Chairs

- a. Co-Chair Spirko discussed several initiatives that the Commission has undertaken since our last meeting in February.
 - i. Disability Advocacy Day: Commission members were thanked for their virtual participation in the Tennessee Disability Advocacy Day. The Commission website launched on this day and had almost 500 views on this first day!
 - ii. The Co-Chairs informed members that the Commission donated \$500 to the Pride Center for their upcoming Transgender Day of Remembrance event with speaker Torrin Greathouse
 - iii. The Co-Chairs reminded members of the upcoming Commission event with SDS and Division for Student Life hosting disability advocate, Haben Girma, on March 23rd.

3. Subcommittee Introduction

- a. The Co-Chairs introduced the Commission's subcommittees that will be active for the remainder of this academic year and a brief description of each committee's scope. Members briefly discussed the need for flexibility in the subcommittees as our Commission grows.
 - i. Communication/Education/Outreach: Help plan website content, gather resources from campus and community, help Commission develop training materials
 - ii. Student & Employee Experience/Equity and Policy: Revise and propose Campus Accessibility Plan and monitor its implementation, make recommendations to the Commission
 - iii. Events: Help plan Commission for Disability events, work with the Communications committee to publicize events, begin to plan Fall 2021 symposium.
 - iv. Ad-Hoc: Campus Disability Center: Research disability studies program and disability centers to start the beginning stages of the initial proposal for a Campus Disability Center



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- v. Bylaws and Membership: Help the Co-Chairs finalize the Commission's bylaws and oversee the membership application process, and brainstorm potential awards that the Commission could award.

4. Subcommittee Assignment

- a. The Co-Chairs announced the following subcommittee member assignments for the remainder of the 20/21 academic year.
 - i. Communications: Dr. Emma Burgin and Dr. Elizabeth MacTavish
 - ii. Student & Employee Experience/Equity and Policy: Dr. Adam Cureton, Tarah Keeler, Stephanie Cook, Dave Ndiaye
 - iii. Events: Riley Toll, Austin Boyd, Karmen Jones
 - iv. Ad-Hoc: Campus Disability Center: Dr. Eric Moore, Kinley Koontz
 - v. Bylaws and Membership: Heather Hartman, Dr. Talisha Adams

5. Subcommittee Breakout Debrief and Discussion

- a. Subcommittees went to breakout rooms to meet and establish priorities for things they would like accomplish during the last few months of this academic year.
- b. The subcommittees returned and reported the following subcommittee-specific action items
 - i. Communications: Members will meet on March 25th to further discuss action items about website development. The GRA will attend this meeting to establish a pipeline for website content development.
 - ii. Student & Employee Experience/Equity and Policy: Stephanie Cook shared that the current draft of the Campus Accessibility Plan was shared among committee members and sections were divided and assigned for each member to review/edit. The group will reconvene on April 5th at 1:30 to go over edits and create suggestions to share and propose with the Commission during the next meeting.
 - iii. Events: Riley Toll shared that the group wants to focus on spreading awareness for disability-related events happening on campus this semester and found several upcoming talks and published those on our website. Also brainstormed a potential event for next year for both undergraduate and graduate students and thought about a Twitch/YouTube streamer and started looking through potential speakers.
 - iv. Ad-Hoc Campus Disability Center: Dr. Eric Moore reported that he and Kinley created a document with a list of different disability study programs and disability centers across the country that they want to research. They also created a vision statement for their proposal and different disability-focused organizations that they can pull into to help them.
 - v. Membership and Bylaws: Heather discussed with the Co-Chairs about the upcoming membership process and the expectation of having a larger volume of applicants due to recent publicity and website launch. The application is forthcoming.



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6. **Bylaws Discussion**

- a. Commission members voted on the bylaws, and they were passed and approved with twelve yays.
7. The Co-Chairs thanked the members for their energetic enthusiasm they put into establishing actional items for their subcommittees and adjourned the meeting.
8. **Next meeting will be on April 19th at 1:30-3:00 p.m.**