



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Commissions for Disability
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 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

1. Introduction and Minutes Approval

- a. The Co-Chairs called the meeting to order.
- b. Meeting minutes were approved from the March 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 March.
- b. Co-Chair Malolepszy discussed her new role as Associate Director within OED and the implications of that on her new role. 30% of her new role will be to serve as a liaison to Student Life which will be important for holistic accessibility and inclusion. As of April 23rd, there will be a national search for an Associate Vice Chancellor of The Office of Equity and Diversity. The Commission will likely play some role in this search and will share more details about that as the search is conducted.
- c. The Commission for Blacks have drafted a statement about the recent event at Austin-East high school and have asked the other Commission heads to sign on in solidarity. Co-Chair Spirko encouraged members to think upon ways our Commission can stand in solidarity with this community in terms of what disability resources are in place in this community and events like these can be debilitating to those involved.

3. Website Resource Gathering

- a. Co-Chair Malolepszy started a discussion about sharing resources that can be communicated among Commission members and be shared more broadly on our website. Dr. Eric Moore shared information about implementing UDL on Canvas course that he created that will be offered asynchronously, more information can be found here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1b1c-aRDf2F8uzAvKpfiSS4K0sxZmmorSCefgOG7p2N0/edit>
- b. The Communications subcommittee shared a Google Sheet where members shared campus and community disability resources that could be shared on the website.
- c. Co-Chair Spirko talked about the upcoming membership drive to recruit new members for the Commission . The Co-Chairs informed members that they are all in year one of a two year commitment to serve on the Commission, but if a member felt like they needed to step down to let the Co-Chairs know. Dr. Coleman clarified a few membership



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questions. The Commission will look to build membership so that there is at least 24 voting members in accordance with our bylaws.

4. Subcommittee Breakout Debrief and Discussion

- a. Subcommittees went to breakout rooms to meet and establish priorities for things they would like to accomplish during the last few months of this academic year.
- b. The subcommittees returned and reported the following subcommittee-specific action items
 - i. Communications: Dr. Burgin shared that they would like to set a date to have resources submitted so they can start strategizing how to best organize the information on the website. May 7th is a potential date.
 - ii. Student & Employee Experience/Equity and Policy: Dave Ndiaye shared that the subcommittee met to review the Accessibility Plan that was drafted in 2015. The group left the original group as the authors of the Accessibility Plan while noting that current members are making the updates to the Plan. The group talked about a potential need for having two documents come from this plan. One document with detailed information that will be sent to the Chancellor and another, shortened document highlighting key points to share publicly. They propose to craft this revised document for the public after the detailed Accessibility Plan is sent to the Chancellor's office and could be shared on the university's high-traffic websites.
 - iii. Events: Short term goal- Dr. Eric Moore shared the subcommittee's discussion around creating a social media presence for the Commission that is student-centered to increase engagement. They also discussed future speakers that could come in the fall and hosted a disability conference/symposium centered.
 - iv. Membership and Bylaws: Heather Hartman and the group discussed several questions raised about the bylaws and the creation and upcoming distribution of a policy guide for the Commissions from DDE. Heather Hartman proposed several potential awards that the Commission could give that center around accessibility at different levels.

5. Next meeting will be on May 17th at 1:30-3:00 p.m.