PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING  
Meeting Minutes  
May 28, 2013

Opening:

The meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on Disability and Accessibility Planning was called to order at 9:34 a.m. on May 28, 2013, in the first floor Cutler Conference Room by Darrell Purdy.

Present:

Carolyn Bailey Lewis, Carey Busch, Jim Fonseca, Jenny Hall-Jones, Tracy Kelly, Greg Kremer, Linda Lonsinger, Lacey Martin, John McCarthy, Laura Myers, Dick Planisek, Darrell Purdy, JW Smith, and Harry Wyatt

Absent:

Judi Haberkorn and Paige Stretton

Guests:

President McDavis, Marty Dagostino, and Stephen Patterson

Minutes:

I. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Athens and Ohio University - presented by Stephen Patterson, City Council Member and Associate Professor of Psychology at Ohio University.

A. The official name of the body proposed in the MOU is City-University Joint Disability Accommodation and Accessibility Advisory Council (JDAC).

B. Chair of the Athens Commission on Disabilities for the City of Athens and the Chair for the Presidential Advisory Council on Disability and Accessibility Planning (PACDAP) would coordinate JDAC under the direction of the City’s Service-Safety Director and the Executive Director for Institutional Equity.

1. Representation from Ohio University and the City of Athens would serve on this council.
2. Memorandum of Understanding will be approved over the summer or by fall.
3. Education would be a big role of JDAC.
C. Leading charge would be a Disaster Preparedness Plan.

1. JDAC would review existing plans from the City of Athens, Red Cross, Beacon School, etc. Once the new plan is in place, Athens County would expand on it for their needs.
2. JDAC would build on the City’s present plan. Ben Fultz, intern for the Athens Commission on Disabilities, would identify where JDAC can plug into the City’s plan.
4. It was suggested that a registry for people to self-identify with their location, needs, etc., be implemented.
   a. Educate people that this information will be safe and confidential.

D. More would be accomplished after Disaster Preparedness Plan is completed, i.e., crosswalks.

E. Dr. Patterson would like input on this proposal from PACDAP. Darrell Purdy will send an electronic copy to the Council members for their feedback. There will be a two week deadline for their feedback. Dr. Patterson will make the changes and send the amended proposal to Darrell for distribution to the members.

II. Objective Assessments for Environment


1. He has asked Diana Schwerha, Industrial & Systems Engineering; Cheryl Howe, Applied Sciences; and Lisa Yiehl, Nursing, if they might have students that could use this tool to assess the OU campus. It would be a great educational opportunity for students. Also, it possibly could be Independent Study for the upcoming Fall Semester.

2. It was suggested that an independent professional be hired to do the complete ADA assessment which would include the costs involved.

3. President McDavis stated that he was not opposed to an assessment consultant.

III. President McDavis – Change Team Reports

A. Communication Change Team – Linda Lonsinger, Chair

1. Several team members have participated in two WOUB Studio B sessions.
2. A team web page is being designed and will be hosted by the Institutional Equity website.
   a. This web page will be linked to other departments on campus, i.e., Information Technology, President’s Office, Human Resources, and Communication and Marketing.
3. A team blog is being started in cooperation with WOUB.org.
4. Plan to produce YouTube videos that will be educational and engaging.
5. Branding possibilities.
6. Possibly co-sponsoring Challenge by Choice.

**President McDavis’ Comments:**

1. Focus on internal communication to reach faculty, staff, and students. Work on how to bring awareness of campus to a different level through messaging.
2. Every semester provide an update of what’s happening.

B. **Universal Design and Assistive Technology Change Team** – Dick Planisek, Co-chair

**Universal Design**

1. Ten members of the change team set out to identify the types of need and issues. There’s a lot to get done with 200 buildings and hundreds of acres on the campus.
2. Looked at the concept of Universal Design – the standard conformance with guidelines from the ADA.
3. Strive for universal design at all facilities but there’s a great deal of cost.
4. A campus-wide assessment is needed.

**Assistive Technology**

1. Provide capability to special needs both on the teaching and learning side.
2. Ensure that faculty and students understand that the technology is there for their use and how to access it.
3. Develop campus-wide access.
4. Plan concise projects and attach a funding factors program to identify what level of funding is needed on an annual basis.

**President McDavis’ Comments:**

1. This may be the most important work at this time. We need to understand what we might do and can do.
2. Need assessment with cost of projects planned. The sooner we have the assessment the better. This is a critically important area to get the information as soon as possible.
3. We need a comprehensive report that can be taken to the Board of Trustees.

C. **Leadership Change Team** – Carolyn Bailey Lewis, Co-chair

1. Identify a model for all work.
2. Researched publications and identified how we can take these models and share with the other change teams:
   a. The ADA, 20 Years Later
   b. A U.S. History of People with Disabilities
c. 2011 World Report on Disabilities
3. Educate those involved in projects on campus about things that can be done now.
4. Engage the senior leadership to support the PACDAP work.
5. Create a new office that deals with ADA compliance on campus.
6. Have a forum in September for input from faculty and students.

**President McDavis’ Comments:**

1. Have an audience with the President and other leaderships (President’s Council, Executive Staff, and Council of Deans).
2. More awareness of this work on campus.
3. Have a mini-conference next spring – conversations on-campus around critical issues surfacing from the PACDAP work.
4. Have a summary report with the top 5-10 things recommending from the work this year.
5. *This work is critically important to this institution.*

**D. Inclusion Change Team** – Carey Busch, Co-chair

1. Team conceptualizing the best approach to Inclusion at Ohio University.
2. Help with communications to identify and educate community to support Inclusion.
3. Projects:
   a. Bring in consultants from the community.
   b. Students with disabilities focus group.
   c. Bobcat Student Orientation – request a question about accommodation needs be included in the Admissions material online and paper applications.
   d. Focus group for employees.
   e. Videos targeted to faculty.
   f. App created to help with navigation.

**President McDavis’ Comments:**

1. Data needed from a faculty and students with disabilities – what they think and what we need to do.

   Carey stated that a survey has been done with responses from approximately 200 faculty and students, and 50-60 department heads. Good response.

**E. Assessment Change Team** – Jenny Hall-Jones, Chair

1. Where’s baseline data? We don’t have this data.
2. Over 10 years since ADA study – how do we do another study?
3. Do we need a consultant – research consultants?
4. We don’t have to create guidelines, they are already out there.
5. Regional campuses are to be included in this study.

**President McDavis’ Comments:**

1. External group coming in is not a bad idea.
2. Need to speed up the process.
3. ADA and construction information needed sooner than later.
4. External consultants can do the costing and help with prioritization of projects.

F. Funding Change Team – Tracy Kelly, Co-chair

1. Identify funding streams and develop small data base for grants.
2. Thea Arocho is new Co-chair of the Funding Change Team. She will help to narrow focus and identify resources available.
3. Tracy Kelly will identify external resources and Thea Arocho is identifying internal resources.

President McDavis’ Comments:

1. This is a critical area. Funding resources are very helpful to this effort.

IV. Discussion

A. Genysys is helping the group by providing structure. Genysys works with higher education in supporting individuals with disabilities.
B. It was suggested that a top 5-10 list summary be made.
C. President McDavis stated that this is very timely work and he appreciates the time and effort taken. He’s looking to moving forward.

V. An Emerging Inclusion and Accessibility Story – John McCarthy

A. Project Noah Trembly – Noah has Cerebral Palsy, is an Athens resident, and a member of the Universal Design and Assistive Technology Change Team.
B. Noah works with John McCarthy in a sponsored internship. What happens to Noah when this internship is over?
C. Noah enjoys his experience with Higher Education and is interested in coming back to Ohio University this Fall to take classes.
D. Because Noah has multiple disabilities there are many barriers.
E. John McCarthy would like to continue to help Noah and needs expertise as to who to bring in to make this happen.
F. Noah is interested in instructional media and technology, assistive technology, and instructional materials.
G. Noah needs to strike a balance between his life in Athens and his role as a student. His goal is for something going on for Fall Semester.
H. Noah is taking a chance again in order to be employed.
I. Team Noah may be contacting individuals on the PACDAP for assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Ruth Blickle
Approved by: Laura Myers and Harry Wyatt