FA Disability Committee (DisC)

Meeting on September 11, 2024, 12:00-1:00 PM

Committee Members Present:

Colleen Donnelly (Chair), CLAS/English

Thorsten Spehn (VC and Secretary), CLAS/PolSci

Maureen Melonis, Bioengineering

Pepe Sánchez, SPA

Sophie Cook, CAM

Kyle Ehrhardt, Business

Amy Ferrell, SEHD

Mari Prestigiacomo, Library

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Christine Sargent from Anthropology is joining the team. Welcome back, Chris!

1. Minutes from April 17, 2024, meeting approved unanimously.
2. Discussion of Accessibility Awareness Campaign
   1. Use/dissemination of the posters created by students

Where to put the posters. Should be placed in important sites instead of cluttered places. Discussion of sizes with agreement on standard letter 91/2 x 11), how many (100), what materials (Sophie suggested vinyl), printer in the library could be used.

Request that everyone takes responsibility for their unit: Gets permissions and puts up the posters.

1. Update on ADA inquiry with HR

We have heard about a number of ADA complaints indicating noncompliance at HR. Met with teri engele who is working on new procedures. Right now, HR is reassessing disabilities every year, as during the initial intake, which is not standard conduct for permanent disabilities. Asked to provide all the new intake information. Demeaning process. Working on a system for faculty/staff feedback on HR through FA through “Formstack.” Only 44 accommodations done last year which seems too low. Seems like underreporting.

1. House Bill on Digital Accessibility (HB21-1110)

Many misconceptions:

1. For instance, faculty are not personally responsible cannot be fined. However, the university will be fined for each incident of non-compliance.
2. Blackboard Ally will not bring about compliance: Most of the top schools do not use Ally because it is a backhand mitigation program. 6000 fixes by faculty last year only moved the needle by .01 percent. Difficult to see how it can be used effectively to achieve acceptable accessibility levels.
3. Faculty Resources:
   1. Skillset class from Boulder on how to make accessible documents will be available by the end of the month.
   2. New DisC hub through FA on CLAS.

Best Practices Discussion:

* 1. what do we want to be doing to help faculty be in compliance?
  2. what can be offered, concerns and needs etc.
  3. status update on the Accessibility Steering Committee (ASC)
  4. relationship with FA and what FA needs from us
  5. moving away from Canvas Ally to more effective models to achieve accessible documents from the beginning

1. Updates on other accessibility activities
2. Discussion of ASC issue.