

## DISABILITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 3, 2015

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Dr. Saunders at 3:21 PM.

**Attendance:**

Present	Department
Jennifer Rice-Mason	Disabilities Services
Sharon Davis	MRC Program
Patricia Walls	Social Work
Joy Good	Communication Disorders
Bill Hall	Facilities Management
LaQuita Saunders	History
Cathalene Thigpen	Career Services
Amy Privett	Human Resources
Vaneta Harvey	Disability Services

**Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed by the committee. A motion was made and carried all to approve the minutes.

**Old Business:**

Transportation- A concern about the lack of available transportation options for those with disabilities was voiced by Dr. Saunders at the previous meeting. This continues to remain an issue, prompting the need for further discussion at this meeting. Dr. Saunders reminded the committee that there are currently no vehicles available at the ASU motor pool that adequately accommodate those with certain disabilities that require the use of mobile scooters. She indicated that the options that do exist result in an upcharge for the use of the vehicle which in effect penalizes both those with the disability- as well as those traveling with the person. The committee discussed several possibilities to remedy this situation. Options for both vehicle replacement and rehabilitating the current model were put forward by a number of committee members. The advantages and disadvantages of each option were weighed accordingly. The decision was made to form a subcommittee to look into options for the

purchase of a new vehicle that would better meet the needs of those with a variety of disabilities. This would involve meeting with David who would then be in the position to pass this information on to Bill Petty. Those involved include LaQuita Saunders, Vaneta Harvey, Bill Hall, and Amy Privett.

### **New Business:**

#### **Formation of Subcommittees:**

- ***Service Animals-*** Service animals are those animals with a designated task. This category differs from comfort animals which are those used to relieve anxiety in their caregivers. The current policy puts weight on self-report with regard to the student's need for the service animal. It is not permissible to request to see a student's card documenting the need for such an animal. It is acceptable, however, to ask what task the service animal is responsible for completing for the person. Service animals are permitted in all areas of the campus. Comfort animals are permitted only in the housing area. The need for possible signage indicating the use of such animals in the residence halls was discussed. Such signage would alert others of the presence of these animals. The issues related to the use of the signage will need to be explored further. The use of service and comfort animals has seen a marked increase in universities across the country. As this occurs, issues arise related to their use. To address these issues in advance, a subcommittee was formed to research current policies at other universities and to subsequently draft a policy that is in line with the current law regarding the use of such animals. Once drafted, it will be reviewed by the university attorney prior to final approval and adoption by the university. Sharon Davis agreed to lead this subcommittee. Vaneta Harvey will serve on this subcommittee as well. Dr. Saunders will contact SGO for a possible representative. A representative from Housing is also being sought to serve also.
- ***Chronic Allergy-***A policy is needed to address the needs of those with food allergies. Currently, cases are handled on an individual basis. A meeting with food services is conducted to ensure the student's dietary needs are met adequately. A subcommittee was formed to develop a policy to ensure that the university continues to take preventive and proactive stance when dealing with those with chronic allergies. Dr. Walls will lead this committee and will recommend 2-3 other members to serve on this subcommittee as well.

**Other Business:**

- **Technology**-The implementation of universal design for all courses remains problematic in part due to an apparent lack of awareness on the part of the faculty about the need for such. While ITC offers a course designed to assist faculty in this endeavor, the question remains as to what type of publicity is needed to promote faculty involvement.

**Points to Remember:**

- Dr. Saunders requested the subcommittees report to her as needed.
- She indicated that the next meeting will be scheduled after the beginning of the new semester. She will send a Doodle request to confirm the time.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy Good