

## **ADA Meeting 10/13/09**

### **Minutes**

Present: Jeff Ellison, David Williams, Marilyn Finney, Tom Wilson, Ellen Kisker, Don Winkie, Beth Wheeler, Dave Tushaus, Judy Grimes, Sally Sanders, Venny Pruitt, Gordon Mapley, Cori Criger

#### **Jeff Ellison – Update on Spratt Stadium and the Indoor Practice Facility**

Ellen introduced Jeff Ellison and David Williams and ask them to give us an update on Spratt stadium and the Indoor Practice Facility as related to accessibility. Jeff explained that the improvements and new construction at Spratt Stadium are 2 weeks behind schedule due to weather-related setbacks. Jeff explained that the buildings, grounds, sidewalks and parking facilities will be fully accessible. He also noted that there will be accessible parking, seating, concessions, and restrooms available for people with disabilities on the “visitors” side of the stadium. Jeff noted that the new Spring Sports Complex will also be fully accessible. David mentioned that there will be sufficient seating for folks who use wheelchairs and scooters. Beth Wheeler suggested that the ADA Committee should be part of the planning committees for this and other construction/renovation projects.

Jeff also mentioned that Remington Hall should be completed within the next 2 months. At that time, faculty and staff will be relocated to trailers that will be located on the new parking lot on the north side of Agenstein. Jeff stated that the new accessible parking lot will not be available until at least December of 2010. Jeff mentioned that there are 2 accessible parking spaces available on the west side of Agenstein and that these 2 spaces will remain available throughout all phases of construction/renovation.

#### **Mike Ritter – ODS Report**

Mike stated that everything in the ODS is going okay.

#### **Don Winkie – Adaptive Technology Report**

Don reported that he is currently working with 24 students. To date, he has provided 115 textbooks in alternative format. He and his students are currently transcribing the audio portion of an online HIT class for a student who is hard of hearing. This is a very time and labor intensive process. Don stated that it would be extremely expensive to utilize an off-campus transcription service to provide this accommodation.

Don also stated that he is converting textbooks and supplemental reading materials into alternative format for a faculty member who has a disability.

Gordon, Judy, Sally, and Beth discussed the need to establish policies, procedures, and funding for providing accommodations for faculty and staff with disabilities who request workplace accommodations.

Beth asked how an employee would become qualified to receive workplace accommodations. Dave Tushaus explained that reasonable accommodations must be provided for employees with temporary and chronic disabilities.

Don commented that he will soon have software that will allow him to track how much time is spent in the provision various adaptive technology services.

Don stated that it would be very helpful for students needing his services to be allowed to pre-register so that he could get a head start on converting their texts.

Don also requested that faculty submit their textbook orders to the campus bookstore well in advance of the coming semester. This would make it possible for Don to get a head start on ordering the necessary texts from Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) or to begin the process of converting the texts in house.

### **Northland Campus**

Venny Pruitt commented that services for students with disabilities at the Northland campus have been successfully established. She commented that because of the design of the facility, confidentiality is next to impossible to maintain. She also mentioned that the provision of testing accommodations such as Extended Time and Testing in a Distraction Reduced Environment can be quite a challenge because of the lack of sufficient space at the Northland location. She also stated that the entry door is very heavy and that, if we ever have a student with a physical disability enrolled at the Northland campus, we may need to install an accessible door or install an automatic door opener.

### **Alpha Delta Alpha Honor Society**

Mike announced that he will be hosting an induction ceremony and reception for members of the Alpha Delta Alpha (ADA) Honor Society on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in Blum Union, Room 219. ADA is the only honor society in the country that was specifically created to recognize the academic achievements of students with disabilities. The event will feature a pinning ceremony, keynote presentation, and refreshments. All members of the ADA Committee are invited to attend the festivities.

### **No More Stares Conference**

Ellen announced that the *No More Stares* Conference will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Riverfront Hotel. The keynote speaker this year is Jessica Cox. Born without arms, Jessica now flies airplanes, drives cars, and otherwise lives a normal life using her feet as others

use their hands. She holds the title of the first person without arms in the American tae Kwon – Do Association to earn a black belt. She is also the first woman pilot in aviation history to fly with her feet. Editorial note from Mike... I have spoken with Jessica on several occasions and she is an amazing example of what is possible when sufficient perseverance and determination propel a person to rise above his or her circumstances. Mike has brochures and registration forms available outside his office in Eder Hall 203.

The next ADA meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in Eder Hall, Rom 208.