

ADA Committee Meeting Minutes held on November 5, 2015 at 2 pm in Union, Room A

Attendees:

Marks Elder (ODA); Karen Lott (ODA); Dr. Eddie Holloway (Dean of Students); Danlana Brooks for Justin Long (Residence Life); Matthew Quin (Counseling Center); Rebecca Anderson (Coast Staff), Dr. Gregory Smith (College of Education & Psychology); and Dr. Emily Stanback (College of Arts & Letters).

Mission of the Committee and Minutes:

Marks Elder called meeting to order then reviewed the mission statement, which is to increase disability awareness in an outreach, grass-roots manner, provide feedback to ODA, offer ideas on ways to increase disability training opportunities and disseminate information about ODA and disabilities. Minutes are available on our website and available for review at the meeting. Motion to approve meeting made by Matthew Quin with second by Dr. Gregory Smith all attending approved minutes.

Business Items:

Marks Elder reported that no current committee members rotating off in fall 2015 semester. Marks Elder reported an increased desire for campus wide unity to enhance the college experiences of students with disabilities. Marks opened the floor for suggestions to improve relations with the campus community and ODA. Dr. Holloway noted that activities should be geared toward a wider mass of people. Marks Elder reported that a student is working on a project to get students with disabilities more involved in Payne Center Activities.

Upcoming Events

Marks Elder announced the following events which are open to faculty, staff and students:

- Physical Access Meeting will be on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 12:15 to 1:00 pm at the ODA Office located in Bond Hall. Meeting will be held in Room 101.
- Web Access Meeting will be on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 12:15 to 1:00 pm at the ODA Office located in Bond Hall. Meeting will be held in Room 101

ODA Report:

Marks Elder reported that Suzy Hebert, Director has retired from the Office for Disability Accommodations. Scott Dossett is currently serving as Interim Director. Marks reported that there is still a growing demand for ODA services. Marks reported that we are still continuing the efforts to train and use AIM an electronic record keeping system. Karen Lott reported that we now have our application on the ODA website under the "register for services" link. Karen also reported that having an online application has been very helpful to students from the Gulf Coast Campus. Marks reported that the increased demand may be the result of having an online application making it easier to apply for accommodations.

Updates:

There were no reports on Campus Construction and Physical Access or Web Access. Marks opened the floor for discussion about ADA Training. Emily Stanback, Department of English made the suggestion that ODA come to the Graduate Student orientation. She noted that Teaching Assistants receiving letters of accommodation usually do not know what to do when they have received a letter of accommodation and it would be helpful if ODA provided training. Contact information will be sent to Emily by Karen Lott later in the day. Dr. Holloway noted that with the transition of new faculty and staff there should be consistent conversation with the Counsel of Chairs. It would be helpful if the departments have one contact person in the office to answer questions. He noted that ODA is providing the services however the general players are not generally known on campus. Emily reported that there will soon be a Disability Studies component added to the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, she noted that there will be several community engagement projects involved with this program. Danlana Brooks asked if Training by ODA for Residence Assistants (RAs) be provided more than once per semester as that RAs are recruited throughout the semester. Karen noted that this would be very helpful as that most of the RAs have meetings late at night and announced at last minute making it difficult to accommodate students for these meetings. Matthew Quin suggested contacting Amy Miller, Assistant Provost for Recruitment and Retention to see how ODA can be involved in her efforts. He noted that part of retention is ensuring that students are getting services needed.

Next Meeting

No suggestions made for next meeting. Karen Lott will send a Doodle Poll to get feedback for next meeting to be scheduled. The meeting will be held in the Spring 2016 semester after Spring Break.