

ADA Committee Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2016 at 2:00PM in Union, Room A

Attendees:

Chair Ex Officio	Marks Elder	Disability Accommodations
Vice Chair Ex Officio	Scott Dossett	Disability Accommodations
Voting Member	Cory Moen	Residence Life
Voting Member	Belinda Patterson	Parking Management
Voting Member	Jo Ann Johnson	Research, Centers & Institutes
Voting Member	Karen Reidenbach	iTech
Voting Member	Gregory Smith	College of Ed. & Psychology, Faculty
Voting Member	Adriene McPhaul	Gulf Coast

Audio Recording of this Meeting:



Mission of the Committee and Minutes:

Marks Elder motioned to approve the Mission Statement, which was passed.

Minutes are available on our website and available for review at the meeting. Minutes were reviewed by committee. Minutes were approved as written.

Business Items:

Marks Elder reported on Member Rotation for the committee. Member Rotation will begin July 1, 2017, with new members first meeting beginning in the Fall 2017 semester meeting. The following are member roster updates:

- Susan Rayborn, from the Offices of Online Learning, is scheduled to rotate off on June 30, 2017
- JoAnn Johnson is currenting serving a Third Term, which ends June 30, 2019
- Karen Reidenbach is currently serving her First Term, which ends June 30, 2019
- 2 Student Representative positions remain open; Scott Dossett and Marks Elder will make recommendations at a later date for filling these positions

Upcoming Events:

No upcoming events notices for committee members outside of ODA.

Scott Dossett will be speaking to the USM chapter of the Association of Office Professionals in April, which was arranged by Jennifer Lewis.

ODA Report:

Marks Elder reported on the recent accommodation access meetings that ODA held – a Physical Access Meeting on October 13th and Web Access Meeting on October 20th. Those went well and there was good turnout.

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Scott Dossett reported on Staff Changes at ODA:

- Tiffany Greer recently started as the Disability Specialist for Student Development; a position that has remained open and not filled at ODA for several years. She cleared ODA's student roster and organize their records to be an accurate reflection of the number of students ODA has in their online database system (AIM). She contacted all students that had applied, but had not submitted documentation to fully registered with ODA.
- Elizabeth Killinger starts next Monday, November 14, 2016. She is moving from iTech to our open position of Disability Specialist for Technology and Auxiliary Aids. Karen Lott left this position a few months back to go to Child Development. This position is unique considering that the other staff of the ODA offices now about computers and technology, but not nearly to the degree that this position requires.

Scott Dossett reported on the current demand for ODA services on campus. It discussed the facts that demand is growing, but that there are many students who qualify for our services, but never apply. ODA is reaching out to these students and working to get the word out about the services they offer to the campus community.

As reported on in our last committee meeting on March 23, 2016, Scott Dossett meet with David Tisdale for an article for the USM News about ODA to help get the word out in our services on campus. This article was a success and after it was published was picked up by the Hattiesburg American and the Clarion Ledger. Following this, the Hattiesburg American interviewed Scott Dossett for a follow up piece. Scott Dossett, also, spoke at New Faculty Orientation prior to the Fall 2016 semester starting to approximately 100 individuals. The goal was to help new faculty with common ODA questions that all faculty have for ODA in regards to student accommodations. Legal spoke, as well, on the legalities of disability accommodations. In October, Scott Dossett had a radio interview on WUSM.

Scott Dossett reported on the success of ODA's AIM database program, which has helped ODA keep a paperless record system for their registered students and because ODA has gone paperless and is not mailing item as much manpower has been cut way down. The process for sending accommodation letters to faculty has been cut down from 2 months to 2 days. Additionally, costs are down, and students do not have to pick-up letters or turn them (or forget to turn them in). Professors get the letters for accommodations on time for the start of semesters and electronically.

Updates:

Campus Construction and Physical Access

- At the Physical Access Meeting ODA recently held (October 13, 2016), one of the things discussed during is that Physical Plant is trying to get the handicap stalls in the bathrooms in the Thad Cochran Center, as they are currently very

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hard to access with a wheelchair. Scott Dossett spoke specifically to Chris Crenshaw about this matter just 2 days ago, but the timeframe for this change is still not known.

- Additional improvements are to be made to sidewalks at the side of McLemore Hall in front of the Alumni House (by the Rock). This sidewalk will be widened and a crosswalk will be added in, with the goal is for this path to connect to HWY49 crosswalk/accessible pathway. This project should start soon; no date was given to ODA. This project is being worked on between USM Physical Plant and MDOT. Initially parking spots will be lost in this project, but by its conclusion parking spots will be gained.
- Recently, Physical Plant completed the sidewalk by ODA. There were delays in these improvements due to sewer issues.
- Scott Dossett reported on Web Access, in the absence of a representative for University Communications. He spoke specifically at what was discussed at the Web Access Meeting ODA recently held (October 20, 2016). Paul Brayfield, Rich O'Brien, and Jamie Goff from iTech attended this meeting, which helped to discuss Starfish, PeopleSoft (SOAR), and other programs that affect web access. Additionally, they talked about the ongoing updates to the school website from the content manager system Drupal 6, which is currently unsupported, to Drupal 8. Their hope with these updates is to make the USM website as accessible as possible to all USM students. Per Scott Dossett, there have not been web access problems as of late. No complaints have been heard, which in contrast to years ago, when students, usually those with sight impairments, had issues with web access to the University's website.
- Captioning is up-to-date currently.

New Business:

- Adriene McPhaul, the Gulf Coast representative, brought forth the discussion on the lack of communications setup with the coast in regards to physical access for students on our Gulf Coast campuses. Scott Dossett reported on the physical accessibility issues that Lloyd Hall (of the Gulf Park campus) last year. Physical Plant was scheduled to fix the bathroom accessibility of this specific building; the resolution of this issue has not been confirmed to ODA.
- Adriene McPhaul questioned the accessibility the Gulf Coast community has to the accessibility meetings that ODA holds biannually. Scott Dossett reported that the meetings are open, they are not remotely viewable on the Gulf Coast campuses and have no official Gulf Coast representative. The meetings will occur physically in the ODA offices in Bond Hall (Hattiesburg campus).

Next Meeting:

Spring 2017 Semester – Marks Elder will send communication via email to setup this committee's next meeting.