

ADA/Section 504 Committee Minutes from Meeting on September 11, 2012 at 2pm in Union, Room A

Members in Attendance: Belinda Patterson for Jennifer Hatten (Parking Management); Justin Long (Residence Life); Rodger Jackson (Safety); Josh McAlpin (Physical Plant Project Manager); JoAnn Johnson (Research, Centers & Institutes); Karen Reidenbach and Jeff May (I-Tech); Matt Quin (Counseling Center); Geoff Locicero (University Communications); Robin Johnson, chair (Coast); Ragan Summers (ODA); Suzy Hebert, secretary (ODA); Scott Dossett (ODA); Susan Rayborn (Learning Enhancement Center); Dr. Jon Beedle, vice-chair (College of Education and Psychology); Tyler Meador (Student Representative) and Jim Kessler (ADA Consultant visiting the campus).

Items Distributed: Meeting Agenda and circulated the minutes from March 8, 2012 meeting.

- I. **Mission of the Committee:** Meeting called to order by the committee chair, Robin Johnson. She reviewed the mission 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.
- II. **Introductions of new members, chair and vice-chair.** Robin Johnson was recognized as the new committee chair and Dr. Jon Beedle as the new vice-chair. They are replacing the former chair, Dr. Aimee Thomas, and former vice-chair, Dr. Stephanie Roy. Both Aimee and Stephanie are now working at other institutions. New committee members were introduced: Jennifer Hatten representing Parking Management; Geoff Locicero representing University Communications, and Justin Long with Residence Life. It was noted that the chair and vice-chair positions are three year commitments.
- III. **Minutes from Spring 2012 meeting:** Minutes from the Spring 2012 meeting were emailed to the members in the Spring and, more recently, they were sent out as an attachment with the emailed meeting reminder. All should have had an opportunity to review them. Copies were also circulated in today's meeting. The committee approved the minutes from the March 8, 2012 meeting.
- IV. **Business items:**

Number of students on the committee and consideration in limiting this number: Currently, four students are listed as committee members and, recently, a former student who was a committee member, returned to Southern Miss and has requested to rejoin. There was discussion about whether the committee should limit the number of student members. It was noted that the attendance of student members has not been good in recent years and one student without a disability attended a few meetings with her instructor because the student was interested in disability access and how it related to the student's major, Interior Design. A motion was made to not limit the number of student members and the committee voted to approve this motion. There was additional discussion about whether SGA or other student groups need representation.
- V. **ADA Consultant Visit:** The ADA Consultants, Salome Heyward and Jim Kessler, were visiting the campus and the Gulf Coast campuses. Jim attended this meeting while Salome was interviewing others. Suzy Hebert remarked that their assistance will be good for the university as they will provide guidance in improving access at Southern Miss. At the meeting, Jim shared that this is the

consultants' first of two or three visits and that it is a fact finding trip and they are getting familiar with the community. Jim and Salome have met with many of the committee members and some students with disabilities. Jim said that the members can email him at jim.kessler47@gmail.com or Salome at smheyward@aol.com if they have issues they want to share.

- VI. **Accommodation and Access Presentation.** With a PowerPoint presentation, ODA provided information about different aspects of access, common classroom and other accommodations and how members can assist in maintaining our campus's accessible features. Accessible features include ramps, railings, handicap parking, parking access aisles, walkways, power doors, curb cuts and access signs. As the committee viewed photos of accessible features, additional information was shared. Parking Management stated that tickets for misuse of handicap parking will not be fixed. Safety Office said that there are bike racks at all buildings and if more are needed, call Safety. A question was asked about having signs for the bike rules and Parking Management indicated that the rules are published. Safety Office noted that the ON/OFF switch for the newer power doors is not located in the middle of the top door frame, rather it is placed closer to the sides of the top frame. Safety Office said that if anyone sees problems with doors, elevators, curb cuts, etc, they can call Physical Plant. Dr. Beedle asked if ODA looks at the layouts for renovation and new construction and ODA indicated that has not been the practice. ODA reminded the committee that they can show this presentation or create other disability presentations for campus groups, departments or classes.
- VII. **Updates**
- a. **Physical Access Meeting and Web Access Meeting.** Both are open to campus community and will take place later in the semester. ODA shared that it will advertise the meetings by having announcements included in the campus weekly email mailouts, by sending letters to ODA students, and by posting signs at ODA.
 - b. **Campus Construction and Physical Access:** Josh McAlpin reported that they have started on the new College of Business building, Scianna Hall. And, on the North 31st Pedestrian Plaza project, they are waiting on Dept of Transportation and, hopefully it will be finished by end of February. Susan Rayborn inquired about the lack of sidewalk in front of the Methodist Center on campus and Rodger noted that this property doesn't belong to the university so it can't be altered by us but he will check with the city.
 - c. **Web Access** - Karen Lott reported that web access is an ongoing process and students who have problems accessing websites, can contact her. Tyler Meador asked if BlackBoard has tutorials.
- VIII. **Other:** Tyler Meador inquired if there was representation for students with disabilities at the upcoming meeting in September for the Presidential search.
- IX. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held in Spring 2012. At the beginning of the Spring semester, members will be sent information on the meeting's date, time, and location via email.

Minutes recorded by Suzy Hebert.