

## Accessibility Committee

### Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2022

1. Meeting called to order @ 11:09 am by Art Barron.
2. Land Acknowledgement read by Art Barron.
3. Welcome to our new members: Mary Sinclair, Stacey Jackson, and Mohamad Nadi. Mohamad was previously a student member and has returned.
4. In attendance: Art Barron, Shirley Malette, Mohamad Nadi, Stacey Jackson, James Coulter, Mellissa Forget, Mark Colangelo, Wayne Nevin, Mary Sinclair, Melanie DeSchutter, Gerri General, Monica Staley Liang, Stephanie DeFranceschi, Beth Pirouet, Dina Naser

Regrets: Kathleen Jette, Navjeet Singh, Laurisa Kapetanov, Conrad McCulligh, Marnie Kurssis-Morrow, Navjeet Singh, Marianne Bourke

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2022:  
Additions, omissions, edits - none  
Motion to approve by Mark Colangelo  
Seconded by Mary Sinclair  
Approved
6. Business Arising from previous meeting's minutes:
  - Zekelman Accessible Entrance – It was thought it was fixed however, it had a programming error. It has been fixed now and is being monitored to ensure it remains unlocked.
  - Student Members – Mohamed has joined. A student at South has declined and we have reached out to a student downtown.
  - 3-year plan and new report – Art will connect with James Coulter to ensure everything is in place.

## 7. Updates:

- Facilities Update (James Coulter) – Most accessible desks are now working. A couple of areas are still a point of concern and operators are still needed and require a strategy.
- Art – we do have a few new students this year with high needs regarding accessibility
- Report of Possible Accessibility Issues:
  - Chatham

Library doors need to be accessible as they are not. A low vision student requires support pillars to have strips to easily identify where they are. Some pillars have them but they need them on all pillars and to go all the way around.

Action Item – Art will follow up with Rebecca regarding adding strips on support pillars.

Not all classrooms have motorized desks. Classroom 107 does not have one. Is it possible for all classrooms to have motorized desks?

Action Item – Art will work with Rebecca to identify how lists need to be created for all classrooms that do not have accessible desks.
  - Downtown
    - Ramp accessibility
  - Main Campus
    - One-Stop held in the classic gym is concerning as the doors are not accessible and propping the door open created an issue as it was a fire safety hazard.
  - Online – none at this time
  - Student's Perspective

Elevators are being used by able-bodied people and should be reserved for those who are not as those who require the elevator are having to wait long periods of time. Suggestions of the possibility of workshops to educate students?

Action Item – Art to contact marketing about creating a video about elevator usage, possibly to play in the elevator.

## Overall

- Shirley - Action Item – to investigate the possibility of Alertus to access the tvs and an addition of tvs in elevators to display any emergency information.
- A conversation took place about the possibility of running an accessibility campaign, creating videos to promote accessibility services. Suggestion also made to reach out the CAE regarding the possibility of creating a general elective regarding disabilities and how to be accessible.

## 8. New Business

- Door Opener Audits – doors are being checked on a weekly basis. Work orders are submitted for any that not working. There have been multiple reports of automatic door openers not working.
- Classroom doors need accessible buttons however, retro-fit is a big investment and often requires the door itself to be widened and needs to be done strategically, beginning with classrooms that have students who use wheelchairs.
- Many desks are barrier free/tilt but we now have a need for sit/stand desks due to the changes in wheelchair designs. Some classrooms have sit/stand desks but many do not.
- Action Item - to identify which budget(s) includes accessible doors for classrooms.
- Action Item – to create a strategy for emergency procedures for those with disabilities and the creation of a sub-committee. This will be added as an agenda item for next meeting. Suggestion of asking for a voluntary registry of those with mobility, visibility challenges so that we can communicate emergency response procedures and drills, ensure they know how to text 911, etc. We need to discuss how we better address this student population to ensure their safety and comfort.
- Room 143: The desk in the CICE Computer Lab lowers but does not raise. This desk had worked last week, but now shows an error code.
- Room 143: Accessible door bar inside classroom. When pressed, this door did not open. Action item - ticket for this item.
- Room 135 needs adjustable table.
- Accessible doors leading in and out of the building by Campus Bookstore: The outside auto-door opener works but the one in between the 2 doors does not. Action item - ticket for this item.
- There was an issue with the one of the bathroom lifts having a dead battery. It was replaced. These are checked on a scheduled basis.
- The cafeteria accessible table tilts but does not raise or lower and one particular student can't eat there. A table has been ordered by Rebecca.

The same issue exists in room 149 and 143. We are looking into purchasing desks from Monarch.

- Scent allergies are becoming a problem. We know that the building can't be scent free however, maybe a campaign for the Accessibility Committee to create a video regarding scent allergies would help to decrease the amount of scents being used. Addition of signs in Chatham seemed to help the situation. We'd like to see an increase of signs at other campuses. A suggestion was made to send out a communication to faculty in regards to how to address their students to educate them of the risks and how to help out.
- **Action Item – recommendation to the CAE create a gen/ed around disability to add to the awareness and education.** Other areas to include are THRIVES and the Learning Portal. Will be on the next meeting as an agenda item to create a sub-committee and start a campaign.
- Terms of Reference change – we don't have quorum so it will be **tabled to the next meeting**. Change of meeting terms to once a month. Addition of convocation department person as a voting member of the committee.

9. Adjournment @ 11:59 am.