

DISABILITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 29, 2015

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jennifer Rice-Mason at 3:15 PM.

Attendance:

Present	Department
Dr. Jennifer Rice-Mason	Disabilities Services
Teresa Fisher	Nursing
Vera Forrest	Parking Services
Dr. Joy Good	Communication Disorders
Bill Hall	Facilities Management
Dr. LaQuita Saunders	History

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Election of Officers: Dr. Rice-Mason requested volunteers/ nominees to serve in the following capacities for the upcoming academic year: Chair and Recorder. Dr. Good volunteered to serve as Recorder. A motion was made and carried all to elect her as the new Recorder. Dr. Saunders was nominated to serve as Chair; she accepted her nomination. A motion was made and carried all to elect her as the new Chair.

Mission Statement: The current mission statement was read by Dr. Rice-Mason.

Goals for the 2015-2016 Academic year: To assist the committee in identifying its service priorities for the current academic year, Dr. Rice-Mason provided an overview of the policies currently in place.

- **Seizure Policy-**A-State currently has a number of students diagnosed with a seizure disorder. The current policy provides for a point of exit and preferred seating arrangement for those in need of these accommodations. Possible re-entry into the classroom environment is possible for those capable of doing so. This policy may need to be revised/ updated in its current form to address the needs of these students more fully.
- **Service Animals-** Service animals are those animals with a designated task. This category differs from comfort animals which are those used to relieve anxiety in their caregivers. The current policy puts weight on self-report with regard to the student's need for the service animal. It is not permissible to request to see a student's card documenting the need for such an animal. It is acceptable, however, to ask what task the service animal is responsible for completing for the person. Service animals are permitted in all areas of the campus. Comfort animal are permitted only in the housing area. The need for possible signage indicating the use of such animals in the residence halls was discussed. Such signage would alert others of the presence of these animals. The issues related to the use of the signage will need to be explored further.
- **Chronic Allergy-**A policy is needed to address the needs of those with food allergies. Currently, cases are handled on an individual basis. A meeting with food services is conducted to ensure the student's dietary needs are met adequately.
- **Course Substitution-** There is currently no course substitution policy for foreign language. This is potentially a concern for the students with

language-based learning disabilities as well as those with other types of communication disorders (i.e., fluency disorder or articulation disorder).

- ***Extended Time Policy-*** A number of students receive the extended time accommodation for examinations. However, some instructors choose to give all students additional time to complete their tests. What implications does this have for those with the extended time accommodation? Written guidelines are needed to ensure these situations are dealt with in a consistent manner.
- ***Technology Statement-***This issue needs to be addressed.
- ***On-line and Web-Based Policies-*** The ITTC is available to add captioning to media resources for all faculty. A workshop would be beneficial to make faculty aware of the need/ availability of this service. When technology is used, it should be accessible to all students regardless of disability.
- ***Overview of Programs-*** Brochures detailing the current programs offered by Disability Services were provided to all committee members.
- ***Upcoming Meeting:*** November 3rd at 3:15 in the Student Affairs Conference Room in the Reng Student Services Center.
- ***Adjourn:*** The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy Good