NOTES and ACTION ITEMS - ENABLE YORK

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| **Meeting Date:** | Thursday, January 28, 2016 | |
| **Meeting Attendees:** | **Voting Members:**   * Ruth Bramham (Staff) * Dragan Spasojevic (Staff) * Hilary Martin (Graduate Student Co-Chair) * Andrea Daley (Faculty) * Yvonne Simpson (Graduate Student) | **Ex-Officio members:**   * Marc Wilchesky (Exec. Director of Counselling & Disability Services, Keele Campus) * Josephine Tcheng (Centre for Human Rights – Advisor) * Leanne DeFillipis (AODA Coordinator) * Sheila Wilmot (CUPE 3903 Equity Officer) |
| **Apologies from:** | * Marian Macgregor (Faculty Co-Chair) * Lynx Cooper (Undergraduate Student) * Pam Broley (Staff) * Lauren Keyes (YUGSA Equity Representative) | |
| **Absent:** | * Huda Alsarraj (YFS Access Centre) | |
| **Notes taken by:** | Andrea Daley | |
| **Next Meeting Date:** | To be determined via Doodle.  The next meeting will be scheduled for the week of February 22, 2016. | |

**Agenda:**

1. **Introductions**
2. **Minute/Note Taker**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of Revised Minutes from October 28, 2015**
5. **Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2015**
6. **Old Business**
   1. **Accessible Meeting and Event Guideline- Needs final approval**
   2. **Sub-Committee (by-law, Built Environment)**
   3. **Soft Launch – David Lepofsky Event**
7. **Future Events and Initiatives**
8. **Next Meeting**
9. **Other Business**

**Items Discussed:**

1. **Introductions**
2. **Minute/Note Taker**

Andrea Daley

1. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by the committee.

Marc Wilchesky and Dragan Spasojevic added items to the agenda.

1. **Approval of Revised Minutes from October 28, 2015**

The revised minutes from October 28, 2015 have been approved by consensus and will be posted on Enable York’s website.

1. **Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2015**

The minutes from December 8th 2015 have been approved by consensus and will be posted on Enable York’s website.

1. **Old Business** 
   1. **Accessible Meeting and Event Guideline – Needs final approval**

The committee discussed and agreed upon a process by which the Accessible Meeting and Event Guidelines will be electronically distributed to members to review and for revisions. Once this process is complete and the revised Guidelines are approved they will be posted on Enable York’s website.

* 1. **Sub-Committee (by-law, Built Environment)**

-The first meeting of the Built Environment sub-committee occurred on Monday, January 28th 2016. At the meeting the sub-committee discussed its priorities. Out of the three students who were interested in participating on the subcommittee, Vassil H. has shown interest

-The first priority of the Built Environment sub-committee is to update the Enable York website before the soft launch on March 7th 2016. Such as, making an accessible campus map and the accessible shuttle service schedules available on the website. Hilary will contact Regan Mancini from CHR about the logistics of updating the website.

-One of the goals of the subcommittee is to get rid of the hidden red buttons on campus

-Future collaborations of the Built Environment sub-committee with Dragan Spasojevic and the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis (OIPA) are still open

* 1. **Soft Launch – David Lepofsky Event**

-Hilary reported that David would like to structure the event so that the first hour will include his talk along with a panel (Odelia Bay and Maayan Ziv); this will be followed by an interactive workshop that will have attendees move around campus to look for structural and ideological barriers

-Hilary reported that the Critical Disability Studies Student Association (CDSSA) rep. Rachel has indicated that they would like to co-sponsor this event along with Enable York, the CHR and Osgood Hall Law School

-The Committee discussed potential rooms based on the expected number of attendees (80-100 people)

-The Committee discussed the need for an event email address for RSVP purposes. Josephine explained that the existing [enable@yorku.ca](mailto:enable@yorku.ca) email address was established last year by the CHR but that it is very likely not active. The Committee agreed that an RSVP link connected to Osgood Hall Law School could be included an electronic invite

-Discussed importance of having event captured by York media – Yfile.

Action:

* Hilary will explore room options and book appropriate room.
* Hilary will follow up re: securing ASL services and associated financial support.
* Hilary will follow up with Marian re: electronic invite/email.
* Hilary will contact Jenny Pitt Clark at Y-file re: running a story.
* Hilary will follow up with David L. re: title of event. Since the event is also Enable York’s soft launch, the committee hopes Enable York’s name is in the subtitle and/or event description.

1. **Future Events and Initiatives**

-The committee discussed future events for the 2015-2016 academic year agreeing that it will be difficult to plan for more events this year. However, there was agreement that organizing events is important/necessary to enhancing the visibility/recognition of Enable York on campus and to convey York’s commitment to accessibility. There was agreement that we could plan a student panel allowing for a Q &A opportunity for students (students could send a list of questions to facilitate the discussion of the panel)

-A suggestion was made to brainstorm events that were held in the past to inform the planning of future events for the 2016-17 academic year. The following events were identified:

* A roundtable event that facilitated students speaking directly to administration about accessibility issues. It was noted that staff and faculty should be considered, as well.
* Positive space events (LGBTQ+, disability) are an ongoing event but are not held ‘as needed.’
* Stair bombing – barriers put up on stairwells to obstruct access for students re: simulating the experience of access barriers

-Other ideas related to future events included:

* Planning events for Frosh Week to support students getting acclimatized to the campus
* Reviewing the FGS Dean’s Taskforce on Students with Disabilities (includes a list of recommendations that went to Senate) to identify student experiences and recommendations – build events from this information
* Letting academic units/departments know that Enable York could co-sponsor (although noting lack of funds) and participate in events

-It was also noted that given the time and money required for events that other ways to enhance the visibility of Enable York should be considered, such as, developing a series of messages or a campaign.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be confirmed via doodle poll. It will be scheduled for the week of February 22, 2016.

1. **Other Business**

-Marc reported that while at the Community Safety Council Meeting he raised the issue of subway accessibility with Kathy Branton re: emergency preparedness but also day-to-day. Dragan stated that while the subway has room for two elevators, only one has been built; raising concerns about safety in the context of an emergency. Ruth also voiced accessibility concerns. Marc has referred Hilary and Marian to the Community Safety Council so they can assist with the planning of subway accessibility and voicing the concerns and comments of Enable York to the Community Safety Council

-Dragan was at a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) meeting and announced that if anyone knows of areas around campus that need to be considered due to lighting and landscaping concerns to let him know

-Sheila Wilmot has a copy of the Dean’s Task Force on Graduate Student with Disabilities – Policy Recommendations to Senate and will forward the document to committee members