

MINUTES and ACTION ITEMS - ENABLE YORK

Meeting Date:	Tuesday, August 22 nd , 2017	
Meeting Attendees:	Voting Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yvonne Simpson (PhD Candidate, Critical Disability Studies) ▪ Samantha Holloway (Undergraduate Student, Student Co-Chair) ▪ Taylor Starr (Undergraduate Student) ▪ Ruth Bramham (Project Coordinator, CSBO) ▪ Dragan Spasojevic (Manager, Community Relations and Crime Prevention) ▪ Marcia Rioux (Research Professor- School of Health Policy and Management, Faculty Co-Chair) 	Ex-Officio members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marc Wilchesky (Exec. Director, <i>Counselling and Disability Services- Keele Campus</i>) ▪ Deane Taylor (Manager, <i>Accessibility, Wellbeing and Counselling Centre- Glendon Campus</i>) ▪ Elizabeth Lia (Legal Assistant, Office of the Counsel/AODA Office. Designate for Leanne DeFilippis) ▪ Kat Kahnert-Wolchak (Coordinator, YFS Access Centre) ▪ Josephine Tcheng (Education and Communications Advisor, Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion –REI)
Guests:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patrick Descartin (Graphic Design and Website Assistant, Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion) ▪ Aerilyn Medina (YFS Access Centre) 	
Apologies from:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andrea Daley (Associate Professor, School of Social Work) ▪ Sharon Henry (VP Gender-YUGSA, PhD Candidate- Sociology) ▪ Sam Teclé (VP Equity- YUSGA, PhD Candidate- Sociology) 	
Minutes taken by:	Natasha Prashad (Coordinator, Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion)	
Next Meeting Date:	Tuesday, September 26 th 2017, 10:00am to 12:00pm, REI Boardroom- VPD 2070	

Agenda:

1. Introductions and Announcements
2. Routine Items for Discussion
 - a) Approval of Notes of Last Meeting
3. Bookmark and Brochure Resources
4. October Roundtable Event
5. How the Committee fits or is not fitting the requirements of our role on campus
 - a) A look at the AODA and a study from Manitoba
6. Looking ahead to our school year

Items Discussed:

1. Introductions and Announcements

The Student Co-Chair with roundtable introductions of members present.

The Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion will be holding a film screening, to commemorate the *International Day of Persons with Disabilities*. This event is scheduled to occur on Thursday, November 30th, 2017 and will feature the film documentary Shadow Girl along with opening remarks by the Enable York Co-Chairs and a Q/A with the film director, Maria Teresa Larraín. The location of the event is yet to be confirmed, but members suggested spaces such as the Joseph Green Theatre or the second floor of Scott Library. Members were asked to think about how they would like the committee to be involved in this event.

A) *Senate Policy for Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities*

Following discussions from the June 21st meeting, members from the *YFS Access Centre* provided an update on the status of the Policy for Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. Members from the *YFS Access Centre* have been in contact with the Senate Equity Subcommittee responsible for the policy and have been informed that the first section of the policy has been passed, however sections on “Guidelines, Procedures, and Definitions” have not been decided on. As well, the Senate Equity Subcommittee stated that policy consultations are scheduled for the fall.

In addition, members reviewed *YFS Access Centre*’s recommendations that would allow the policy to support students from a strength-based view of disability. Recommendations from the *YFS Access Centre* are based on policies found at other educational institutions in Ontario. The policy recommendations document will be circulated to all members via email for review before the next committee meeting.

Members discussed other improvements to the policy as well as current processes in place to accommodate students with disabilities. Suggestions for improvements included;

- Mandatory face-to-face training for all faculty or other York members on how to provide accommodation to students
- Students and professors should be required to read through the policy together so both parties understand the process

- Letter provided to students with disabilities from *Counselling and Disability Services* should be revised as a method for students to request accommodation

The committee will further discuss advocacy plans for the policy in the September meeting. As of now, members are encouraged to advocate for the policy to be student-focused. The Senate Equity Subcommittee will be informed that Enable York is currently reviewing the policy and would like to provide feedback.

2. Bookmark and Brochure Resources

Patrick Descartin gave a presentation on his process in creating the various designs for the committee brochure. Members present provided feedback and proposed changes which included;

- Bigger text
- Have a version of our brochure in French for the Glendon community
- Add a version code or last published date

A PDF and Microsoft Word version of the brochure designs and content will be circulated to all members via email for feedback. Please send your comments / additions / suggested edits to jtcheng@yorku.ca by September 8th, 2017.

He also noted that three panels were left blank for either more content or reformatting of the existing content. Members discussed possible information that could be used to fill the blank panels including;

- Education about how committee members can work to increase accessibility in the community
- Information to encourage faculty members to explore new forms of pedagogy regarding disability

3. How the Committee fits or is not fitting the requirements of our role on campus

The Faculty Co-Chair led a discussion about a recent Built Environment Accessibility Audit conducted at the *University of Manitoba* to identify physical accessibility barriers on campus. This type of audit would be something that could be replicated on York's campuses, allowing the university to be a model for accessible education environments. With the new Markham campus set to begin construction soon, the committee noted that a similar audit should be conducted along with greater consultation with persons with disabilities.

4. October Roundtable Event

Members decided to hold the roundtable event in early November, being a better time in the academic calendar for the event. Specific members of senior administration were identified as mandatory attendees for the event including;

- Vice Provost, Academic
- President
- Vice Provost, Students
- Deans of respective faculties

Invitations to members of the senior administration will be sent out to ensure enough notice for their attendance.

Members' notes that to ensure accessibility, the event would need to be advertised at least three weeks. In addition, an interpreter and real time captionist would need to be secured for the event.

To Do List:

Activity	Person(s) Responsible
Share with all members policy recommendations from the YFS Access Centre	Natasha Prashad
Send feedback to Josephine for development of committee brochure by September 8 th	Committee members
Create and share meeting calendar for 2017-2018	Natasha Prashad and Samantha Holloway
Send suggestions to Dragan for making York's campuses more accessible	Committee members
Draft invitation to Senior Administrators for round table	Josephine Tcheng
Send a save the date to members for International Day of Persons with Disabilities event	Natasha Prashad
Book space for October Roundtable event	Natasha Prashad
Email Robert Everett about academic accommodation policy	Dr. Marcia Rioux
Email to York Administration about whether the new Markham campus will be accessible	Marc Wilchesky

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