

MINUTES and ACTION ITEMS - ENABLE YORK

Meeting Date:	Tuesday, February 6 th , 2018	
Meeting Attendees:	Voting Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Marcia Rioux (Faculty Co-Chair) ▪ Samantha Holloway (Student Co-Chair) ▪ Ruth Bramham (Project Coordinator, CSBO) ▪ Sarah Irwin-Gardner (Manager-Graduate Student Wellness Services, Faculty of Graduate Studies) ▪ Yvonne Simpson (PhD Candidate, Critical Disability Studies)- via teleconference 	Ex-Officio members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maureen Barnes (Director, Student Accessibility Services- Keele Campus)- on behalf of Marc Wilchesky ▪ Deane Taylor (Manager, Accessibility, Wellbeing and Counselling Centre- Glendon Campus) ▪ Kat Kahnert -Wolchak (Coordinator, York Federation of Students- Access Centre)
Apologies from:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Andrea Daley (Associate Professor, School of Social Work) ▪ Ketziah Rhule (Undergraduate Student) ▪ Marc Wilchesky (Exec. Director, Student Accessibility Services- Keele Campus) ▪ Sajeth Paskaran (Undergraduate Student, President- McLaughlin College) ▪ Roxana Jahani Aval (Graduate Student, Ontario Director- National Education Association for Disabled Students) ▪ Josephine Tcheng (Education & Communications Advisor, REI) ▪ Rana Nasrazadani (Undergraduate Student) ▪ Taylor Starr (Undergraduate Student) 	
Minutes taken by:	Natasha Prashad (Coordinator, REI)	
Next Meeting Date:	Tuesday, April 3 rd 2018 from 10:00am- 12:00pm, room TBC	

Agenda:

1. Introductions and Announcements
2. Routine Items for Discussion- Approval of Notes from the January meeting
3. Roundtable Report Subcommittee
4. Markham Campus Centre Subcommittee

Items Discussed:

1. Introductions and Announcements

The meeting began with roundtable introductions of members present. Members were reminded that the next committee meeting will be held on March 7th 2018 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

Also, it was mentioned that the *Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion* will be having two upcoming events for Black History Month and International Women's Day respectively. Members were directed to the Centre's website for more information.

University of Toronto- Leave of Absence Policy

The *University of Toronto* proposed a Leave of Absence policy that unfairly targets students with "disabilities" as it would force students who are considered 'unable to engage in activities required to pursue an education or who are perceived as posing a risk of harm to themselves or other, be put on a mandatory leave of absence by the University. It recently was noted that per *The Varsity- U of T Student Newspaper* that the University withdrew the policy following an *Ontario Human Rights Commission* request. The University expressed that the policy is to be reworked and introduced later.

Members decided that the committee should respond with a statement on the Enable York committee's webpage, stating the committee's position and reinforcing that the policy does not support and strengthen existing systems to allow students with "disabilities" to exercise their rights.

2. Routine Items for Discussion- Approval of Notes from Jan Meeting

The notes of meeting from January were reviewed and approved by members present.

3. Roundtable (RT) Report Subcommittee

Subcommittee members met on February 5th to decide the contents, themes and framing of the report. Members decided to have the final report completed by March 20th, presenting to *President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights (PACHR)*. A first draft is in progress.

4. Markham Centre Campus Subcommittee

Subcommittee members attended the scheduled consultation meeting on February 14th, from 3-5pm and brought with them notes from all committee members that were drafted in the meeting. Committee members discussed the many disabling barriers and questions regarding the campus design which included;

- *The campus is positioned in an exclusionary framework, rather than focusing on inclusion of everyone in all situations.*
 - ✓ The large number of stairs used is of major concern as it expresses the notion that the campus is inviting to only able-bodied people.
 - ✓ Elevators should be placed where everyone can see them and include Braille on the buttons along with enough space for people with a mobility device to get in.
 - ✓ The building needs to consider accessibility for all members of the York community, including students, staff and faculty.
 - ✓ Ramp and stairs need to be integrated with each other to be inclusive of all students, especially students using a mobility device.
 - ✓ Integrating “low-stim spaces” for students with sensory disabilities along with the use of ambient lighting.
 - ✓ It is imperative to think about how people with “disabilities” could be independent in emergency or safety situations.
 - ✓ What percentage/data did you use to determine the number of accessible parking spot?
- *What checklist did the architectural team use and per which accessibility standards?*
 - ✓ We want the architectural team to acknowledge the input provided by the committee at January meeting.

- ✓ Has a variety of students and professors been consulted on the accessibility of the campus, especially in classrooms?
- *How will the building facilities be maintained?*
 - ✓ Mechanical and electrical requirements of the building should have sound accommodation and make use of the latest technology to ensure an accessible learning environment.
- *How accessible are classrooms?*
 - ✓ Are classroom spaces considering the variety of mobility devices that people may be using (i.e. enough space at doorways)?
 - ✓ Tiered classrooms are exclusionary to people with “disabilities” as they are forced to be on display at the front of the classroom or relegated to the back.

To Do List:

Activity	Person Responsible
Contact York University Development Corporation for presentation	Natasha Prashad
Send notes from Markham City meeting to committee members	Natasha Prashad and Samantha Holloway
Share committee’s consultation notes for Markham Centre Campus to David Lepofsky	Ruth Bramham
Send invitation to Markham Centre Campus meeting to committee members	Samantha Holloway
Share Date for PACHR Meeting with RT subcommittee	Natasha Prashad
Draft statement from committee regarding U of T policy	Yvonne Simpson
Complete first draft of RT report	Ketzhiah Rhule