

MINUTES and ACTION ITEMS - ENABLE YORK

Meeting Date:	Tuesday, November 28 th , 2017	
Meeting Attendees:	Voting Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Samantha Holloway (Undergraduate Student, Student Co-Chair) ▪ Marcia Rioux (Research Professor- <i>School of Health Policy and Management</i>, Faculty Co-Chair) ▪ Ruth Bramham (Project Co-ordinator, <i>CSBO</i>) ▪ Yvonne Simpson (PhD Candidate, <i>Critical Disability Studies</i>) 	Ex-Officio members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deane Taylor (Manager, <i>Accessibility, Well-being and Counselling Services- Glendon Campus</i>) ▪ Maureen Barnes (attended on behalf of Marc Wilchesky-Exec. Director, <i>Student Accessibility Services</i>) ▪ Josephine Tcheng (Education & Communications Advisor, <i>REI</i>) ▪ Kat Kahnert-Wolchak (Coordinator, <i>YFS Access Centre</i>)
Apologies from:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Taylor Starr (Undergraduate Student) ▪ Andrea Daley (Professor, <i>School of Social Work</i>) ▪ Rana Nasrazadani (Undergraduate Student) ▪ Elizabeth Lia (Legal Assistant, <i>Office of the Counsel/AODA Office</i>, designate for Leanne DeFilippis) 	
Guests/New Members:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sajeth Paskaran (President, <i>McLaughlin College</i>) ▪ Sarah Irwin-Gardner (Manager-Graduate Student Wellness Services, <i>Faculty of Graduate Studies</i>) ▪ Roxana Jahani-Aval (Graduate Student and Ontario Director, <i>National Educational Association for Disabled Students</i>) ▪ Ketziah Rhule (Undergraduate Student) 	
Minutes taken by:	Natasha Prashad (Coordinator, REI)	
Next Meeting Date:	Wednesday, January 10 th , 2018 from 10:00am to 12:00pm in Kaneff Tower, room 901	

Agenda:

- 1. Introductions and Announcements**
- 2. Routine Items for Discussion**
- 3. Roundtable Event**
- 4. Goal Setting**
- 5. Accessibility Audit**
- 6. Other Business**

Items Discussed:

1. Introductions and Announcements

The co-chairs opened the meeting with roundtable introductions of members present. New members were also given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

2. Routine Items for Discussion

The notes of meeting from September and October were reviewed by members present. All members approved the notes of meetings.

3. Roundtable Event

A draft report was presented members recapping the Roundtable Event held in early November. The details discussed included attendance, themes from the event, promotion, expenses and next steps.

After, members shared their views on the issues and solutions discussed at the Roundtable Event.

- After this event, there was an increase in reports about non-functioning automated door openers to CSBO.
- The Enabling Accessibility Fund was identified as a possible solution. The fund is administered by the *Ministry of Employment and Social Development* and provides \$10,000 for an organization to create accessible infrastructure. However, it was noted that \$10,000 may not be enough to cover all accessible infrastructure project, as for example, it costs a minimum \$5,000 to replace one automatic door opener for a building. Also, there is the issue of certain projects being a higher priority over others.
- Another solution that was suggested was the creation of a fundraising campaign, in partnership with the York University Fundraising office that emphasizes supporting accessibility.
- Students with a vision disability expressed concern of being unable to see the blue lights at yellow emergency stations across campus. However, as an additional measure, all yellow emergency stations

are now equipped with horns and strobe-lights (that do not impact people with epilepsy).

- There needs to be a way for people to report any accessible infrastructure that needs to be repaired. It was noted that *Go-Safe* personnel conduct audits at both campuses.

Finally, members agreed that their next step of action would be to create a formal report that could be circulated to units on campus and senior administrators. The report would summarize issues from the Roundtable Event, but also highlight the experiences of students with disabilities at York, with qualitative and quantitative data.

4. Goal Setting

Members' present developed short-term and long-term goals for the committee.

Long-Term Goals

- Shift negative attitudes about disability on campus, thus encouraging strength-based language.
- Raise Enable York's profile on campus.

Short Term Goals

- Enhance the York-U Safety App to include a feature to report non-functional automatic door openers.
- Continue to advocate for changes to the Policy for Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.
- Send out a formal report to units on campus.

Members also suggested creating an awareness campaign that highlights the broad definition of disability. The campaign would work to dispel myths about disability and be a platform for students, staff and faculty members with a disability to share their stories and experiences. The purpose of the campaign would be to show the "diverse face" of disability. It was suggested

that the committee collaborate with the *YFS Access Centre* on this campaign.

5. Accessibility Audit

This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

6. Other Business

Osgoode Hall Law School Wellness Initiative

As mentioned at the Roundtable Event, *Osgoode Hall Law School* has Student Success and Wellness Counsellors to support law students with disabilities. It was suggested to invite Ellen Schlesinger to speak more about the programs they offer, as committee members that Osgoode wellness initiatives could be a model for other units on campus.

University of Toronto- Leave of Absence Policy

The *University of Toronto* recently proposed a Leave of Absence policy that unfairly targets students with disabilities. As highlighted by Students for Barrier-Free Access student group, the policy 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 others, to be put on a leave of absence. Members decided that the committee should publish a statement on the matter.

Activity	Person(s) Responsible
Invite Ellen Schlesinger to the next committee meeting	Sarah Irwin-Gardner and Natasha Prashad
Circulate information about <i>University of Toronto</i> Leave of Absence Policy	Roxana Jahani-Aval and Natasha Prashad
Report on Roundtable Event	Committee members
Awareness Campaign	Committee members
Statement of Support	Kat Kahnert-Wolchak

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