

NOTES OF MEETING and ACTION ITEMS - ENABLE YORK

Meeting Date:	Wednesday, October 25 th , 2017	
Meeting Attendees:	Voting Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yvonne Simpson (PhD Candidate, Critical Disability Studies) ▪ Ruth Bramham (Project Co-ordinator, <i>CBSO</i>) ▪ Marcia Rioux (Research Professor- School of Health Policy and Management, Faculty Co-Chair) 	Ex-Officio members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Josephine Tcheng (Advisor – Education & Communications, <i>REI</i>) ▪ Kat Kahnert-Wolchak (Coordinator, <i>YFS Access Centre</i>) ▪ Marc Wilchesky (Exec. Director, <i>Counselling and Disability Services- Keele Campus</i>) ▪ Deane Taylor (Manager, <i>Accessibility, Wellbeing and Counselling Services- Glendon Campus</i>)
Guests:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sara Gjyli (Undergraduate Student) ▪ Maureen Armstrong (University Secretariat and General Counsel) ▪ Robert Everett (Assistant Secretary, University Secretariat) ▪ Thumeka Mgwifwi (Reference Library, Scott Library) ▪ Franck VanBreugel (Graduate Program Director, Computer Science- Faculty of Graduate Studies) 	
Apologies from:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Samantha Holloway(Undergraduate Student, Student Co-Chair) ▪ Taylor Starr (Undergraduate Student) ▪ Andrea Daley (Professor, School of Social Work) 	
Minutes taken by:	Natasha Prashad (Coordinator, <i>REI</i>)	
Next Meeting Date:	Tuesday, November 28th, 2017 from 10:00am – 12:00pm, Centre for Human Rights- 280A York Lanes	

Agenda:

- 1. Introductions and Announcements**
- 2. Routine Items for Discussion**
 - A) Approval of Notes from September Meeting**
- 3. Senate Policy Discussion**
 - A) Guests from University Secretariat Equity Subcommittee**
- 4. Roundtable Event**
- 5. Accessibility Audit of York University**

Items Discussed:

1. Introductions and Announcements

Josephine Tcheng and the Faculty Co-Chair began the meeting with roundtable introductions of members present.

In addition, Josephine introduced members of the *Senate Equity Subcommittee* who were invited for the discussion about the Policy for Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. The members included;

- Maureen Armstrong (University Secretariat and General Counsel, Interim AODA Coordinator)
- Robert Everett (Assistant Secretary, University Secretariat)
- Thumeka Mgwifwi (Reference Library, Scott Library)
- Franck VanBreugel (Graduate Program Director, Computer Science-Faculty of Graduate Studies)

2. Senate Policy Discussion

Maureen Armstrong provided members with a brief history of the formation of the Policy for Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities and updated members on its current status. She noted that the consultation process has begun and any feedback received through these consultations would be communicated to Senate by June 2018. Josephine Tcheng suggested using the Roundtable Event as a platform to announce ongoing consultations. In addition, Marc Wilchesky and Deane Taylor offered to send out information about the policy consultations to registered students with.

Furthermore, members present discussed the policy improvements and generated other improvements which included;

- Emphasize that the accommodation process should not solely be the responsibility of students who are making the request as this does not account for the barriers they may face. How can staff and faculty members better support students in the process of requesting an accommodation?
- *Universal Design* principles should be prominent in the policy in guiding the academic environment at York University.
- Professors need to have a better understanding of the concept “disability” to better support accommodation requests. This could be facilitated through training of all faculty members.

- Language in policy should be strength-based rather than deficit-based. For example, use the word “access need” instead of “accommodation”.
- Include an Accessibility Commitment/Statement in the policy.
- Create a policy mechanism where students can provide feedback on the policy.
- Policy should consider physical accommodation barriers for students.
- Include a definition of “disability” and “barriers”.

After receiving suggested policy improvements, Robert Everett asked members about ongoing initiatives on campus that are promoting accessibility and the right of students with disabilities.

3. Roundtable Event

An update was provided to members regarding the planning for the event. All committee members were sent an electronic version of the event poster and asked to circulate among their networks. As well, it was suggested that light refreshments be served including tea, water, coffee and fruit. Marc Wilchesky, volunteered to supply ice water and tea for the event. Also, Dean Taylor, offered to promote this event at Glendon, encouraging students to use the shuttle service to attend.

Members discussed possible choices of people who could be a moderator for the event.

4. Accessibility Audit of York University

As noted in the previous committee meeting, members expressed interest in conducting an accessibility audit of York’s campuses. This activity would be facilitated with the help of nursing students who would like to be involved with the committee in order to fulfil their practicum requirement for their program.

- Ruth Bramham noted that some audits have been completed by York University Housing, however was unsure if a campus-wide audit has been done. Ruth suggested that the nursing students contact Helen Psathas-*Director for Campus Planning & Development, CSBO* for guidance.

Activity	Person(s) Responsible
Provide tea and water for the Roundtable Event	Marc Wilchesky
Request interpreting and RTC services for the Roundtable Event	Josephine Tcheng
Accessibility Audit	Ruth Bramham, Sara Gjyli
Promote Roundtable Event	All committee members

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