

Affirmative Action and Disability Affairs Committee Meeting
Minutes
2009-2010 Meeting #3
November 12, 1:00-2:30

In attendance

Laura Putsche, Soc/Anth
Julie Lang, Parking
Marlene Peterson, Facilities
Heather Gasser, Women's Center
Carmen Suarez, HRAI
Gloria Jensen, DSS
Stacey Camp, Soc/Anth
Brenda Kotewa, Graduate Student
Angela Schweigert, Student Support Services
Kristin Henrich, Library
Trish Hartzell, MMBB
Josh Paulsen, Director of Web Communications
Yvonne Wright, CDHD

Business

1. Josh Paulsen, Director of Web Communications, gave a presentation regarding UI web accessibility and his role. He said that his roles are to oversee UI web strategy and presence; manage the team of web coordinators, interns, and developers; and complete site core migration, support the capital campaign, and build UI social media presence. With regard to accessibility, he said that there are three considerations: 1. Avoid legal action against the UI, 2. build sites that are not only accessible, but are optimized for use by people with disabilities, and 3. Prevent the UI from reverting back to the dark ages of the internet (1990s). He added that becoming compliant is a major undertaking and will take time, but we must demonstrate that we are making progress. The path toward accessibility has included the purchase of Site sort, a program that identifies web site problems associated with accessibility, a meeting in December to acquaint ITS professionals and web coordinators on the use of the tool, and the search for additional resources, including consultants and interns to help with the initial assessment. The most visited web pages and primary funnels will be addressed first. Carmen asked about individual faculty and student groups web pages, and Josh answered that all sites with uidaho.edu domains must be compliant. Josh stated that AADA could serve as an advocate for the system, and Carmen suggested that AADA help raise awareness of the need for web site accessibility through the Faculty Senate. It was suggested that avenues for raising awareness include new faculty and staff orientations, workshops, and annual emails to faculty and staff. Committee members decided that we should submit a report and recommendations regarding raising awareness of web site accessibility to the Faculty Senate.

2. Three topics that AADA should address next were discussed: The Assistive and Accessible Technology Evaluation for the University of Idaho, diversity in faculty/staff searches, and the campus climate for women. With regard to the latter, one area of concern is the advancement of women on campus. Heather suggested that we review the reconciliation agreement; where the UI is in terms of compliance and progress, for example. Committee members agreed that Heather and Carmen will provide presentations regarding issues associated with women on campus at the next meeting.

