

To: Classified Officers and Representatives
From: Jeannie Beach
Date: September 29, 2009
Re: Monthly report from the Accessibility Committee
Meeting Date: September 18, 2009

Agenda Item: Continuing Business

CAC Display Table at General Assembly Presenter: Ann Palmer

Ann reported that the Accessibility Game was well received, even though the target audience has to be enticed to participate in a 5 – 10 second walk-by. She complemented her accomplice, Troy Keith, in his ability to attract people to the table. The committee hopes to obtain promotional items (laser pointers) to hand out at future events.

Automatic Door Openers at PIN: Presenter: Carolyn Allred

It was noted that some agenda items such as this will remain on the agenda as a placeholder, until resolved. The door issue remains unresolved. Linda Haywood, Campus Manager CYP, noted that she had heard the automatic door vendor had gone out of business and that was causing delay.

Closed Captioning Update: Presenter: Steven Christopher

There is now money in the budget for Closed Captioning. IRT is manning the pilot project. The Visual Communication Design department is the beneficiary of pilot funding. Leftover budget funds may be used in other areas later in the year. The committee goal is to encourage permanent funding and expand available resources. Marketing is now on board and intends to include captioning in new productions. The General Assembly video linked to the professional development website was captioned and made available quickly. It was noted that the Campus Tour videos are not captioned. Another goal is to set all classroom monitors to enable captions when they are turned on. The variety of equipment models has proved to be a challenge to instructors. Rich Brown in IRT has developed instructions for numerous models and the committee hopes to have instructions attached to every monitor in every classroom.

Agenda Item: Purpose of Committee Presenter: Steven Christopher

The purpose of the committee is awareness, education, and to change the college culture regarding accessibility. The committee is pleased to report that there is now an Accessibility administrative rule. The rule provides guidelines (but not mandates). Accessibility is also now a line item in the Facilities budget. The committee discussed summarizing the cost of retrofitting facilities and instructional materials and presenting the findings to the Board. It is expected that implementing the principles of Universal Design will be less costly up front than correcting accessibility problems later. It was noted that the Architects for the new Round Rock campus have solicited input from the committee regarding accessibility.