ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: 4/12/2024
Time: 9:00am-10:00am
Facilitator: Tim Trussler

In Attendance

Tim Trussler, Colin Dory, Wen Zhao-Pliske, Beth Reichenbach, Brian Umpstead, DeAnne Hamilton

1.) Accessibility Training

The Canvas training has had over 150 participants so far and has overall been highly successful. Feedback is in the high 90% that the information was useful and the participants learned new things.

- All that is left to do is to report out to the board.

2.) Library Update

Thanks to recent trainings, the library has seen more people accessing LibGuides, but there's still a bridge to gap for spreading the news on the resources the library provides. What are some ways we can promote the library resources more?

- Some suggestions include promoting it at Professional Development Day. Beth suggests approaching it from all sides—getting news about the resources in the Newsletter, have announcements done promoting LibGuides, etc.

3.) Community Role and Bates Needs

a. Future Role in the Community – We would like to partner with more departments, primarily with HR and IT to start with, in order to expand accessibility throughout the college. What steps can we take to aid these departments in increasing accessibility?
   - We could research other college policies to help provide more inclusive language for job postings.
   - Technology could be screened ahead of time for accessibility.

- Brian suggests reaching out to facilities to see what they need and what support we can offer. Some things he's observed are barriers to wheelchair access and automatic doors not being available for bathrooms.
- Beth suggests reaching out to department leaders and asking how we can be of help to them. Departments to include could be Communications, Outreach, and Facilities.
- DeAnne can reach out to the cabinet. She also suggests involving KBTC.
- Providing specific examples of how we can help could be the best approach.
- Beth points out the IT has the heaviest load and it will take time for them to make these adjustments.

b. **Current Bates Needs** – Accessing the current needs for Bates would require an Accessibility Audit. What would it look like, and how would we go about doing it?
   - Wen suggests having an annual accessibility review, similar to the SIF survey.
   - Beth suggests offering an anonymous open survey form,
   - Colin suggests working with the ASG to get more student involvement, and to reach out to Communications to work with staff and faculty.

4.) Good of the Order

a. The next meeting will be held Friday, June 10th.