Meeting Minutes 31 January

Present: Colleen Donnelly, Reba Yount, Maureen Melonis, Vivian Aranda-Hughes, Thorsten Spehn, Sophie Clark, Christine Sargent

Minutes approved.

Reba addressed us. She raised issue that there needs to be a better overhaul of the site.

We raised issue that it is unclear what is the responsibility of each group? Need to help supervisors determine what level of accommodation are needed. “Supervisors” don’t need to be and shouldn’t be experts, but they need to meet the legal requirements. Perhaps a centralized budget to help people get accommodations as opposed to individuals or departments? The institution needs to be responsible for making accommodations. There have been two lawsuits in the past few years that ruled this way. Also, there is no longer opacity in the HR Department. The website is down. What is the specialized training for ADA?

Colleen suggested that they need to collaborate with faculty to get the information that is needed.

Christine noted that there is no longer a site. What was posted states that it was the primary unit’s responsibility, but legally it is the University.

Ideas forwarded to improve this are posters and emails. Given the budget constraints, there are a heap of problems to deal with.

Reba wants information on the problems, specifics, but also creating a space and information for supervisors so that they can more properly interact.

We raised questions about the correctness of the information, what is being shared with supervisors, and what supervisors are being advised are their roles and advised interactions.

Issue of stools and podiums in UCD run classrooms:

How do we get things fixed? Having stated this, Reba will probably find it easier than us to get information from AHEC/facilities, because we hit a brick wall. What actually does fall to AHEC and what falls to the University?

Issue: Are disability resources available across all buildings and rooms?

Thorsten suggested a CFDA accessibility workshop, to move people from the biomedical model (compliance) to social justice (accessibility).

We agreed to invite Reba back, regarding the website, education, and hidden disabilities.

For next meeting:

Try to accomplish a start into the visible and hidden disabilities poster contest, etc.