

Technology Accessibility Task Force

DECEMBER 15, 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT

JP Sherry, Tom Danford, Kaitlyn Sherer, Nisha Beckhorn, Yolanda Garcia-Gomez, Gwyn Tracy, Albert Garcia, Kevin Flash, Julia Kehew, Dawn Pedersen, Kevin Williams, Gabe Ross, Katrina Harman, Scott Crow, Michael Poindexter, Even Nguyen, Christina Ocrant, Gary Aguilar, Marsha Reske, Leslie Reeves, Monica Pactol, Sue Slager, and from CampusWorks, Lauren Oczypok, Nick Laudato, and Barbara Frey (*via Video Call*)

ABSENT

Amy Brinkley, Victoria Rosario, and Mario Rodriguez

1. Introductions

JP Sherry thanked the members of the Task Force for their participation. The members introduced themselves.

2. Welcome

JP welcomed the Task Force and stated that our new consultant, Nick Laudato with CampusWorks has been brought on board to help move this project forward.

3. Approve April Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the meeting were sent out to the technology accessibility task force prior to the meeting and were also an attachment to the agenda, giving everyone the opportunity to review them. The minutes were approved by consensus as is.

4. Value Statement

JP explained the process that brought us to this meeting: the task force was formed, last year a work plan was created, and we looked for a consultant to assist in the work plan. An RFP process was initiated but did not produce a suitable consultant. As we started the second attempt at an RFP, we noted we had time on the books with CampusWorks and decided to move forward with them as our consultant.

The Task Force reaffirmed the reasons we are working on this issue; most importantly to provide students that have a disability appropriate access to the electronic information technology, to promote equity, and last to avoid lawsuits and enforcement actions. Accessibility is a moral imperative and the right thing to do for our students, faculty and staff.

JP gave the definition that technology is “accessible” when:

[A] person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equally effective and equally integrated manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use. The person with a disability must be able to obtain the information as fully, equally, and independently as a person without a disability.

We wish to bring ourselves in compliance with the web accessibility guidelines by making everything perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust.

5. State Accessibility Audit

JP gave a warm thank you to Marsha, Leslie, and their team for their work on the State Audit of Los Rios Community College’s technology. JP highlighted the audit’s findings and praised American River College for meeting its goals 95% of the time, while recognizing that we strive for 100%. Further, he noted that while we have yet to receive a complaint about technology accessibility from the links on each page, we will document the process by which we will respond to anyone who uses them to make sure they can access what they need as quickly as possible.

JP mentioned that the web redesign project will move us forward on the issues raised by the state auditor and will benefit our students, faculty, and community with disabilities.

6. CampusWorks Directions and Work Plan

Nick shared his experience in academic computing and planning and introduced Barbara Frey and Lauren with CampusWorks.

Nick went over CampusWorks’ plan to look at the architecture of the District’s systems in different layers consisting of the staff and faculty, software, hardware, and networks. They will analyze the dynamic relationships between the professors and students to see how they are organized.

To accomplish their plan, CampusWorks has started by talking to the Task Force. Next, they will look at the tools and content of our technology by taking samples and analyzing these samples to determine what the issues are and how to remediate them. We will assist in the construction

of the framework for selecting the screens and pages that will be part of this data collection. CampusWorks will provide us a remediation plan.

JP expressed one goal should be ensuring that faculty members who use the same electronic information technology year after year should work to make that accessible as soon as possible. Members of the task force shared their campuses various practices and phases of fulfilling this goal.

Gary Aguilar, our liaison with the faculty, shared concerns of the faculty. He also stated that the faculty members are open and supportive of the concept of making their material accessible; they just need the guidance, training, and support to accomplish this. The task force agreed that four additional faculty members, to represent each campus, should join us to ensure the faculty voice is adequately represented in our work. Gary will be the point person for this task.

The final notes were that CampusWorks wants to focus on building a better system structure not a better practice for dealing with technology accessibility complaints.

7. January Meeting Goals and Expectations

The take away points from this meeting were:

- The need to share the information and knowledge gleaned from the Task Force with others and the colleges.
- Any task force member who knows of an individual with a disability that we could listen to and learn from should send their name/contact information to Kaitlyn.
- Gary will be bringing four more faculty members into the Task Force.

Goals for the January 2018 meeting:

- Creating a new Board Policy on our standards and accountability regarding technology accessibility.
- CampusWorks will present us with a timeframe for accomplishing our work plan goals
- CampusWorks will advise us on our next steps.