

Deaf Professional Group  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, January 13, 2006  
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
LBJ- 2590

In attendance: Approx. 15 people

The meeting started at 12:15 p.m., with Kurt Stoskopf as facilitator.

AGENDA

Voting Results

The internet-based voting result to approve the new DPG structure passed 35-0. Some people with Mac computers had difficulty accessing the site and could not submit their votes. Mitch Berger explained how to use only the 'reply' key to vote. Trivia: Harry Lang was the first president of DPG!

Award of Excellence Award

Ted Lord clarified that this award can go to a deaf OR hearing individual- the correction needs to be made.

Currently, the committee is composed of Keith M., Ted Lord, and Barbara Ray. They are seeking two more representatives to serve on this committee

Organization Purposes

Kurt explained the purpose of DPG- to support the interaction of deaf/ hh employees at NTID and RIT. DPG is not composed of only the steering committee, but all deaf/ hh employees are considered to be members of DPG.

Some people feel that DPG's statement that we are not a political organization conflicts with its stated purpose of "Take action on issues when the need arises"...

Keith Mousely clarified that DPG functions more as a 'watch-dog' organization and will take action only as the need arises. We now have presence through our council representatives, and needs to act more in an advisory capacity since we don't have any decision making clout.

Website

We have updated the old website, and will use it to post minutes, powerpoint presentations, announcements and so forth.

All announcements must go through Regina Kiperman Kiselgof for screening and approval, then they will be sent to Mitch for posting on the website.

There is a 'contact' link on the website to send email to the DPG steering committee.

### Membership

DPG membership includes any deaf or hard of hearing employee of NTID who has been ‘flagged’ (per Rocco), and is automatically added. Deaf employees of RIT are not necessarily automatically flagged, and a special request should be made for them to be added to the DPG mailing list.

### NFC

Keith Mousely explained that it was the first time ever that DPG has had representation in NFC and NSC. The NSC representations are Lizzie Sorkin and Eyob.

The RIT AAUP organization website has a link to NTID. The communications officer is Susan Keenan- she is responsible for communicating with and disseminating information to NTID faculty.

There were some concerns about ‘Blue Ribbon’ – some feel there have been conflicting actions, e.g. hiring new employees, when the goals of Blue Ribbon are to streamline and downsize.

There were also some concerns about changes in medical insurance, retirement benefits, etc., for faculty.

### NSC

Lizzie Sorkin, student and NSC president, introduced herself to DPG, and distributed oranges and a flyer promoting NSC activities. Fridays are spirit day at NTID and she encouraged us to dress in orange and brown, and to support fundraising activities.

### Communication Form

The idea of having a communication forum to discuss communication issues and concerns at NTID- among students, faculty and staff, was brought up. There were signs posted all over LBJ requesting that people use sign language at all times. Lizzie does not know how it all got started, but states that NSC supports this effort. NTID has indeed made progress over the years in regard to communication, but there is always room for improvement.

### Staff Council

See overhead notes from Erin Esposito. She also encouraged DPG to self-nominate for institutional committees and to get more involved.

A staff person expressed concerns that he can’t always get permission from his supervisor to participate in DPG or campus-wide committees.

Thank you, Kurt, for bringing soda pop and bags of chips to the meeting!