

NTID's Deaf Professional Group
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2006, 12.00-1 45 pm

Present:

DPG Steering Committee: Regina Kiperman-Kiselgof; Mitchell E Berger; Dr. Kavin; Kurt Stoskopf;

DPG members: Ritchie Bryant; Dr. Christie; Kathleen Dollinger-Meyer; Dr. Hauser; Dr. Kurz; Rocco Luigi Saccente; Jane Mullins; Keith Mousley; Troy Olivier; Dr. Searls; Mark Sommer; Amy Stornello; Sharron Webster; Marsha Wetzel.

Regina led and started the meeting with a review of ground rules:

- One person talk at a time
- Avoid making negative feedback or comments about specific individuals
- Avoid dwelling on past issues, unless they are directly relevant to today's discussion on unresolved issues

Inside of the DPG's Steering Committee (DPG SC)

- Definition of 'liaison' versus 'chair'. Most feel that those terms are interchangeable, and that Regina should call herself the DPG 'chair' in a more clearly defined leadership role, rather than a liaison.
- The DPG SC has indicated a willingness to continue their roles for one more year.
- The DPG SC developed the DPG structure, and it can viewed on the DPG website
- Every minute notes will be posted on the DPG website.
- The DPG SC meetings are public to DPG members only. The DPG SC will keep DPG members posted about upcoming DPG SC meetings.

Structure of DPG

- It was suggested that DPG do away with a loose structure and become more firmly structured, with positions such as President, Vice President, etc.
- It was generally agreed that we should implement a steering committee structure with two-year, staggering terms.
- There were concerns about what kind of group DPG is viewed as. The majority wants DPG to be a 'formal' group, but the definition of 'formal' needs to be clearly defined.
- Some view DPG as a 'sleeper' group, that takes action to address issues as they arise.
- While the DPG structure is being developed, it was suggested that we hold nominations immediately (in May/June) and hold an election in early fall 2006 (during the 2nd or 3rd week of the quarter), and that current steering committee members can elect stay on; it just needs to be made more 'official'.

- For now, it was agreed that positions within the DPG structure would be formally elected. All other roles would be on a volunteer or 'as-requested' basis. For the election, we will count on a majority of those who have voted.
- Individuals are encouraged to participate on institutional-wide committees as a DPG representative.
- An ad hoc committee has been formed to develop **bylaws** to guide DPG. It will consist of: Marsha Wetzel, Peter Hauser, Denise Kavin, and perhaps Barbara Ray Holcomb.

Website

- The new DPG website was featured.
- The DPG e-mail distribution list needs to be reviewed, as some members said they were not receiving announcements. Rocco Saccente is the point person for this.
- The meeting minutes need to be posted to the DPG website, and available to members only. Mitch will set up password access with Rocco's assistance.
- There was discussion about implementing a blog, or creating a new listserv forum for individuals to carry on discussion.
- Mitch and Chris are working on developing a RSS server where every DPG member can choose any kind of DPG subscription such as event, announcement, meeting, etc. It is expected to be available by this Fall.

Picnic

- The end-of-the-year DPG picnic will be on June 9. Chris Cuculick is still working on the location. An announcement will go out soon. Mark that date on your calendar!

Groups for crisis/ issue resolution

- People feel strongly that DPG needs to assume more responsibility for crisis management. The leader needs to be actively involved.
- The # 1 criticism from the group was that DPG was not responsive to individual email messages expressing concerns, or to issues brought to them.
- We discussed forming ad-hoc committees to respond to issues. One or two representatives from the DPG steering committee need to be involved with each ad hoc committee.
- Ad hoc committees will be formed when a crisis or issue arises.
- Two ad hoc committees are already formed. The first ad hoc committee focuses on developing the bylaws. The second one focuses on writing a position paper. (details are below on the communication form category).
- All sensitive communications within DPG should be kept confidential. We can not actively enforce confidentiality, but respectfully request it of all DPG members.

Communication Forum

- It was recommended that prior to any major forum or meeting, DPG should meet to agree on a unified message, rather than send mixed messages, contradicting one-another.
- DPG will write a position paper on implementing a communication policy at NTID. Matt Searls, Karen Christie, Marsha Wetzel and Peter Hauser will work on this. This position paper will be shared with DPG before being finalized, and will be considered as being endorsed by DPG.
- A petition may be attached to this position paper. Individuals are also encouraged to send emails to Dr. Hurwitz sharing their thoughts.

AOE Award

- People felt they had no say in the AOE nomination and selection process. Individuals also felt their input was ignored by DPG. It was agreed that in the future, the nomination and selection process would be made public for all DPG members to be part of.
- It was generally agreed that we would no longer limit this award to an 'hearing' individual, but rather, make it available to any individual, deaf or hearing, who contributes to NTID.
- The guidelines for this award will be included in the new DPG bylaws.