

Deaf Professional Group Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2006

Opening Remarks by Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz

- Announced the grand opening of the Student Development Center, scheduled for Nov. 9th. The RIT Board of Trustees has been invited to attend.
- Introduced his Administrative Team.
- Supports the mission of DPG.
- Discussed NTID's new communication policy and DPG's involvement, mentoring opportunities, networking, need for more involvement with college-wide and departmental committees and working groups, accomplishments including the SCC (Steering Committee on Communication) recommendations, need for definitive action for results, working with NSC to set up community-wide forums, interpreting usage policy by faculty and staff.

DPG Liaison- Regina Kiperman Kiselgof

- Introduced new hires, promotions, and those with new positions within NTID.

Erin Esposito- Staff Council

- Described Staff Council and the presidential search process. Emphasized the importance of the next RIT president demonstrating sensitivity to deafness.
- Encouraged DPG to get involved with staff council and institutional-wide committees.

Sarah Gordon- NTID Student Congress President

- A big goal of NSC this year is to focus on faculty/staff/student relationships. DPG is encouraged to attend student activities.
- Check www.nsc.rit.edu for updates.

Keith Mousely- NTID Faculty Council

- DPG representative for NFC. NFC is in the midst of an organizational change. Last year, a big issue was communication in public places. Currently, parking space is a big issue.

Karey Pine- Student Life Team

- Unable to attend.

Lizzie Sorkin- RIT Student Government president

- Theme this year is 'Identify', to encourage uniqueness, quality of life, and spirit. Encourages us to wear brown and orange on Fridays.

Kathryn Schmitz

- On the RIT President search committee. Jim McFadden, from NTID's Board of Trustees, is also on the committee. The process has been very cohesive to date, and they are getting ready to advertise the position. Networking is one of the best ways to recruit candidates.

Regina Kiperman Kiselgof then introduced the DPG Steering Committee.

Kurt Stoskopt listed our 2005-2006 achievements, as shown on the powerpoint presentation.

Denise Kavin discussed DPG's work on developing a new set of By-Laws and introduced an upcoming new article "Spotlight on...", as shown on the powerpoint presentation. This will be posted on the DPG website on a quarterly basis.

Mitch Berger -DPG website

- There was discussion about if we should post NTID-only events, or include announcements regarding community-wide events. The general consensus seemed to be that we should focus on DPG events only.
- An interpreter request form is now available on the DPG website.

Keith Mousely reviewed the DPG trivia questions on the powerpoint, covered future activities, and emphasized the need for volunteers on an ongoing basis.

Miscellaneous

- Rocco Saccente asked what DPG's role is now that Dr. Hurwitz has finalized the NTID Community Policy. Dr. Hurwitz responded that he would like for us to be involved with NSC forums regarding communication policy.
- Pamela Conley shared her concerns regarding departmental discussions about hiring candidates with Ph.D. degrees –versus- those with sign language skills. There was some concern that the DPG agenda is mainly social, and that we should focus more on advocacy.
- Sam Holcomb suggested having workshops on 'Climbing the Career Ladder', designated for deaf professionals who may have limited access to mobility opportunities.
- Regina Kiperman Kiselgof suggested a workshop on Negotiation Skills.
- Barbara Ray Holcomb is responsible for professional development workshops with ASLIE. She will gather our ideas and propose them to the NAT for approval.
- Marsha Wetzel suggested a weeklong event on deafness, deaf culture, ASL, the Bi-Bi approach, etc.
- Rocco Saccente recommended that we have a DPG representative on each search committee to recruit and find qualified individuals WITH sign skills.
- There was discussion about the historically lower pay in postsecondary education. It was also felt that job descriptions should say "sign language skills required", not "preferred". It was suggested that we invite a RIT Human Resources representative to come talk about how job descriptions are written, and the legalese involved.
- Marsha Wetzel suggested forming an ad-hoc committee to investigate the legalese of the hiring process, how job descriptions and requirements are written, pay/merit increases, etc. She also suggested surveying DPG members to ask what ad-hoc committees they feel are needed.
- Rocco Saccente suggested using DPG's on-line forum to post questions, develop surveys, etc.

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