

Accessibility at Augsburg Committee

2015-2016 Annual Report

Charter

The Accessibility at Augsburg Committee exists to sustain and advance the College's commitment to physical, instructional and technological accessibility to all students, staff, faculty, and guests of Augsburg College. The committee serves as a catalyst for change and continuous improvement to assure equitable and effective access. The committee seeks input and involvement and support from all members of the campus community.

Goals

- To improve physical, instructional, and technological accessibility.
- To become a leader in accessible higher education.

Objectives

1. Assess accessibility and implement solutions.
2. Promote and facilitate the creation and enforcement of accessibility policies.
3. Measure and monitor progress.
4. Solicit feedback from students, faculty, staff and guests.
5. Educate all members of the campus community including, but not limited to staff, faculty and students about their responsibilities for accessibility.

Members

Ann Garvey, co-chair

Kathleen McGillivray, co-chair

Scott Krajewski, Mary Lowe, Dawn Miller, Bonnie Tensen, Erin Voss, Sheila Fox Wassink, Jill Davenport, Christy Mattingly

1. Highlights of committee work

- A. Review and endorsement of 2015-2016 Accessibility plan: following approval of the Accessibility Policy, the next steps focused on working with critical departments and individuals such as Information Technology (IT), MarComm, Purchasing, and Events and Conference Planning (ECP) to create departmental programs, policies and measures.
- B. Met with staff from Facilities to learn about snow and ice removal procedures, so that we could best ensure accessible entries, parking spaces, etc., are safe and usable.
- C. To address accessibility issues on streets and crosswalks, the committee met with Mackenzie Turner Barga, City of Minneapolis. Members subsequently conducted a physical audit of streets and sidewalks, and we continue to work with the city on improving accessibility. We shared information with the

Transportation Task Force that is invested in improving the pedestrian experience.

2. Faculty, staff and student development and training.

- A. Facilitated Accessibility at Augsburg Forum on November 17, 2016. Reviewed the Accessibility at Augsburg Committee charge, the draft plan for 2015-2016, and invited participants to share their efforts to ensure and improve accessibility.
- B. Proposed an information piece for the Provost which was included in the December faculty update.
- C. Kathy McGillivray presented to Day Student Government at their 11/11/15 meeting regarding surplus funds to be used on accessibility related improvements on campus.
- D. Dawn Miller, Human Resources, presented on the Americans with Disabilities Act to staff supervisors.
- E. Kathy McGillivray and Ann Garvey met with faculty department/division chairs about accessibility statements in syllabi, Center for Learning and Accessible Student Services (CLASS) resources, and working with students who need accommodations.
- F. Rachel, Christy, and Bonnie finalized and listed Course Accessibility Resources on the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) website:
<http://inside.augsburg.edu/ctl/resources/course-accessibility-resources/>
- G. Diversity and Inclusion Certificate program component: Disability as Diversity: Building Bridges To Full Inclusion was offered during fall and spring semesters.

3. Accessibility work

A. Web accessibility

WCAG 2.0 AA is emerging as the guideline/rule for accessibility in terms of web content. The majority of Office of Civil rights (OCR) consent agreements refer to WCAG 2.0 AA.

Committee members amended the WCAG checklist to include A and AA standards.

Joe Mann and others in MarComm are creating trainings and on-line curriculum. During summer 2016, we will pilot trainings for web content managers, and continue those in 16-17.

B. Signage

Augsburg community members conducted signage audits of five buildings: Kennedy/Melby, Science, Music, Memorial, and Foss. Staff in the Facilities Department are working with the vendor to implement improvements in FY17.

C. Physical Accessibility

1. Augsburg's Day Student Body voted in the Fall 2015 to dedicate any carry-forward funds from their activity fee to improving physical access. Funds totaling \$22,500 were made available to the college, along with additional capital dollars. Plans are to increase the number of paddle doors, improve elevator access in the library, and purchase a Braille printer.

2. Kathy, Sheila and Ann met with Leif Anderson, Dennis Stuckey, and Mike Koch (HGA Architects) for discussion on accessibility for new Hagfors Center for Science, Business and Religion.

D. Procurement policy

Committee members worked with the Vice President for Finance and Administration to amend the Procurement Policy, so at the point of possible purchase, individuals ensure software, products, and materials have requisite accessibility features.

4. On-going issues and areas of focus for 2016-2017

- A. Student engagement: how can we best invite and involve students in accessibility work so we are better informed of the student experience and students are better informed of the work of the college.
- B. Continuing faculty, staff and student development and education
- C. Accessibility statement requirement for all course syllabi.
- D. Continuing to improve the physical environment.
- E. CLASS Office specialists serve as liaisons for specific departments and programs. As Specialists continue to engage with colleagues, CLASS staff will work on solutions as well as bring items to the Accessibility Committee that may have broader campus impact or need a broader campus solution.