

# Accessibility at Augsburg Committee 2013-2014 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 Higher Education in accessible education.

## Objectives

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

## Strategic Drivers and Priority Action List

During the 2012-2013 year, members of the Accessibility at Augsburg group worked on a strategic plan, resulting in a ten-item prioritized action list matrix supported by key drivers for the group. The top 3 priorities identified formed the basis for work during the 2013-2014 year. The priorities were:

1. Obtain commitment from leadership.
2. Identify compliance officer and accessibility champion.
3. Conduct comprehensive audit and response plan.

Action steps during 2013-2014 were guided by this framework.

## Priority 1

Obtain commitment from leadership

1. Reached agreement that the Accessibility at Augsburg Committee would report directly to the President

2. Established a lead team for the committee, who met with and worked with various leaders in key areas of the college. Some examples include:
  - A. Facilities
 

Accessibility leadership met with Dennis Stuckey, Director, Facilities, on June 10, 2013, to discuss collaboration with facilities on incorporating attention to issues of accessibility in all projects (sidewalks, signage, etc.), as well as to discuss specific areas from the physical accessibility self-audits. Communication continued throughout the year, and Accessibility leadership met with Dennis and Jill Davenport, Central Services, on May 12, 2014.
  - B. Web
 

Joe Mann, Web Manager, provided a report to the Accessibility Committee on September 25, 2013. Joe reported on worked to review and improve [www.augsburg.edu](http://www.augsburg.edu) accessibility, including review by the Bureau of Internet Accessibility (BOIA)

    - October 2012 grade: B-
    - Fixed over 1000 broken links based on first report after new website launch in October 2012
    - September 24, 2013 grade: B+ “Reasonably Accessible”
      - Site update September 18, 2013
      - Responsive framework
      - An improvement in overall usability
    - May, 2014 grade: D- (alt tag error affected 3,000+ pages). Has been fixed.
  - C. Faculty development
 

Leadership met with Amy Gort, Assistant Vice President, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Lori Peterson, Assistant Vice President, Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies. Topics included amending forms for hybrid course approval so that faculty would ensure course materials were accessible.
  - D. Purchasing
 

In meeting with Jill Davenport, leadership reviewed current practices for ensuring accessibility was a topics during procurement.  
Met with Laura Forgery, Bookstore Manager, about buying texts with accessible supplements. Laura revised the information sent to faculty about textbook selection revised to include accessibility language.
  - E. Workshops, trainings and resources – building individual capacity
    1. Rachel Kruzel attended International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference (CSUN).
    2. Licensed Assistive Technology Tutorials from Atomic Learning to augment other software tutorials available to all students, staff and faculty. Advertised to campus.

## Priority 2

Identify compliance officer and accessibility champion.

1. Vice President of Student Affairs named as compliance officer.
2. In conjunction with Priority 1, creating community of accessibility champions.

- A. Invited campus community members to participate in 5 building physical accessibility self-audits.
- B. Provided self-audit guides to residence life who will conduct accessibility audits during Summer 2014.

### **Priority 3**

Conduct comprehensive audit and response plan.

1. Began work on campus-wide Accessibility policy that would address technological, instructional, and physical accessibility.
2. Continued GOALS project re-benchmarking. Report drafted.

Other Activities

1. Created and implemented a Therapy/support animal policy for students living in the residence halls.
2. Continued to get student input on issues and perspectives.
3. Information Technology (IT) and CLASS Office staff met with STEM faculty who have and will work with visually-impaired students in the major. The purpose was to engage faculty to serve as mentors, and discuss and implement classroom and lab accommodations. Through this process we located an on-line homework program which is accessible.
4. Liaisons For Computing (LFCs) continue to work with faculty in all disciplines, most recently Religion, Political Science, and Honors, to assure that course content and materials are accessible to all.

### **Goals for 2014-2015**

1. Complete draft of accessibility policy: technological, instructional, and physical accessibility.
2. Meet with various constituencies to preview and review policy.
3. Get policy approved.
4. Continue faculty, staff and student development and training.
5. Continue growing the website and using it as a vehicle to submit reports or complaints.
6. Perform annual GOALS benchmarking.