

President's Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting
September 26, 2023
Via Zoom

Members: Karen Gingrich (Chair), Sonya Lobsinger (Secretary), Joanna Bedggood, Chris MacNeil, Linda Whidden, Jennifer Slay, Laura Clarke, Nikki Sasso Mitchell, Laura Le Faive

Regrets: Susan Mahipaul, MK Arundel, Angela Core, Erika Katzman, Doreen Vautour, Tiegan Elliot, Dominique Perreault

1. Approval of the Minutes from May 18, 2023 (C. MacNeil/N. Sasso-Mitchell)

2. Introduction of New Members

K. Gingrich shared that E. Katzman will be covering for J. Preston during his sabbatical leave and L. Le Faive has replaced N. Sasso-Mitchell as the representative from Communications.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Accessibility Board Policy PAAC

K. Gingrich shared that a desk audit was completed by the Ministry which flagged some gaps. K. Gingrich and C. MacNeil worked over the summer months to address the identified gaps. The Accessibility Board Policy went to the Governance Committee a few weeks ago and will go to the Board on September 27, 2023 for review. The policy was updated to ensure that our AODA training was reflected in the policy and a few other items related to parking and transportation. These items were already in place but needed to be reflected in the policy.

Action Items

a) N/A

4. New Business

a) King's University College Accessibility Plan (2018-2023) and Appendix A

K. Gingrich shared that our Accessibility Plan expires this year and suggested that the HR team take this on and bring forward the updates to the committee for review. Committee in agreement to have HR review and bring changes forward to the committee. Committee members can send any updates that they identify to S. Lobsinger.

b) Ongoing Problems with Wemple Lift

C. MacNeil shared that the committee previously agreed to put forth a budget request to build an elevator in Wemple to replace the lift. This budget request was put forth and an architect was hired to create project designs, however, the cost was significant and due to budget cuts we were not able to move forward. C. MacNeil is looking at a smaller scale elevator option similar to the one in the South Annex. C. MacNeil shared that the current lift in Wemple has constant

maintenance issues and the lift is difficult to operate. Security inspects the lift when they do their rounds and report any issues to maintenance. C. MacNeil explained that a smaller scale elevator similar to the one in the South Annex would be a less expensive option and would still service King's the same way that a full elevator would.

J. Bedggood inquired as to whether someone in a larger sized wheelchair could ride the proposed smaller scale elevator with a dog or another person. C. MacNeil confirmed that this would be feasible as the elevator is available in a variety of different sizes.

C. MacNeil currently has someone working on a quote for this and there are various options available for the unit. If we are to move forward it would be placed in C. MacNeil's budget submission for February. Costs would be approximately \$75K for the unit itself and likely another \$75K for the construction to install the unit. This option would provide access to all 3 levels of Wemple rather than the first 2 levels that the lift currently provides.

K. Gingrich reminded the committee of the \$30K available in the PAAC budget that could be considered as an option as well.

c) Accessible Parking Spaces

C. MacNeil shared that a desk audit was received from the Ministry, which was a questionnaire sent to be answered. The Ministry provided a few changes that they requested be implemented by King's. One item was that King's was short on the number of on accessible parking spaces. To address this, a contractor was hired to add accessible parking spaces in lots 1 and 3. Some work was done earlier in the summer and the remainder is being finalized this week. Once this work is completed C. MacNeil will notify the Ministry.

d) Accessibility Audit Update

C. MacNeil shared that a consultant was hired to conduct an accessibility audit of the principle buildings, not including the residence buildings. The consultant is reviewing 7 buildings in total; 4 have been completed and 3 more to complete. C. MacNeil is in the process of reviewing the completed audits. The audit makes mention of various items such as the chair lift, front of Wemple not being accessible, lighting, nosing on stairs and other things of that nature. C. MacNeil is hopeful that the audit will be fully completed by December at which point he will provide a summary to the committee at the December meeting and determine if there are any items that need to be included in the budget.

e) Addition to the agenda – FM speaker

L. Whidden confirmed that the system is being used by a student, slow uptake but the system is being used.

f) Addition to the agenda – PAAC Budget

L. Whidden raised the possibility of investing in noise cancelling head phones to be available in

the library for student use. J Bedggood mentioned that noise cancelling headphones are available as an exam accommodation and this is a common accommodation used by students for tests/exams. The headphones are provided to students when they come to the test so there are some available within the college. K. Gingrich indicated that there is \$30K in PAAC budget and suggested that submissions for the use of the \$30K be sent to S. Lobsinger in advance of the December meeting. The committee can then review the requests and determine where the funds are best used prior to the end of the fiscal.

g) ***Addition to the agenda – Meeting Duration***

K. Gingrich suggested changing meeting durations to one hour. Committee in agreement. S. Lobsinger to update meeting invites.

h) ***Addition to agenda – EDID Week***

J. Slay shared that EDID week is taking place next week (October 2-6). Everyone is encouraged to register for events and allow staff to participate in events. J. Slay also encouraged everyone to complete the EDID survey. There is a townhall in scheduled for Sept 27 at 12pm in Vitali Lounge to discuss EDID and what it means.

Action Items

- a) HR to review and update Accessibility Plan. Committee members to send any identified updated to S. Lobsinger.
- b) Committee members to send suggestions for use of \$30K PAAC budget to S. Lobsinger in advance of the December meeting.
- c) S. Lobsinger to update future meeting invites to one-hour durations.

4. Adjournment

Motion for meeting adjourned 1:20pm (N. Sasso-Mitchell/L. Clarke)