

Contact: Jason Pontius

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 COMMITTEE MEETING

**LIED MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEX, COMMUNITY ROOM
IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA**

**September 18, 2019
1:00 p.m.***

Committee Members in Attendance

Jim Lindenmayer (Chair)	Melissa Shivers, University of Iowa (by phone)
Zack Leist (Co-chair)	Martino Harmon, Iowa State University
Jason Pontius, Board staff	Paula Knudson, University of Northern Iowa
John Cool, Iowa School for the Deaf	

Others in Attendance

Regent Bates, Regent Dunkel, Regent Boettger, Regent Barker

Chair Lindenmayer called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm

The minutes of June 5, 2019 Meeting were approved by general consent.

The Iowa School for the Deaf made a presentation on the Developmental Impact of Deafness. John Cool from ISD talked about some of the security upgrades to ISD including an alert lighting system. The current two light system is being upgraded to a three light system. Other enhancements include new crosswalks, card access and others.

Sisters Kiley and Taryn Peterson spoke to the Board about their experience as deaf members of a hearing family and the choices that students and parents make along the way. Kiley is an ISD graduate, and Taryn graduated from a mainstream public school. They talked about their different educational experiences through ISD and the mainstream system. There was a discussion how they teach, model and encourage students in the program.

Regent Lindenmayer asked about the idea of developing a deaf identity and one creating a sense of deaf identity. The answer was deaf students are often seen as "broken" but are as functional as everyone else. Confidence improves after being part of the deaf community.

Regent Barker asked if more parents of deaf children are accepting of deaf children and deaf culture. The response was there is more acceptance, but still it's difficult to process all the options and all the information.

Paula Knudson asked how colleges can better support deaf students with accommodations. The response was the need for interpreters and how finding qualified interpreters can be a struggle. Language delays often occur with deaf students and that creates additional obstacles.

Regent Boettger asked when they found out that they were deaf. The answer was when we were born and we started to learn ASL. Their parents learned it to communicate with us.

There was a student disability support services presentation. The three directors each made a presentation about disability support services on the public university campuses.

Regent Boettger noted there seems to be a spike in demand for some disabilities and asked about what could be driving that trend. The response was that there is less stigma, and a broader definition of disability in 2008. That change in 2008 likely drove increases beginning in 2012. Also, more students are aware of the services and support. The hope is to see demand flatten over time.

Regent Barker asked what the most common issues are driving the health disability spike. The response is there is more awareness and better education as to what can be accommodated. Celiac Disease is a good example. The presenters stated that 96% of all disabilities are invisible.

Regent Bates asked how education outreach to instructors is handled. The response was much outreach is to instructors to help them understand how to help students in their classroom. For example, the University of Iowa meets with all incoming faculty to educate them.

Regent Barker asked how many requests are turned down. The answer was they didn't know the number but they do have that data. They try to accommodate as many students as possible and don't want to place unnecessary barriers.

Paula Knudson asked about universal design. The response was this is intentional design of learning opportunities without the need to make special accommodations. One example are the bumps added to sidewalks that help the visually impaired, but other people as well. They try to address these issues when a class is being designed.

University of Iowa student Claire Miller asked a question, stating that she feels the University of Iowa has limited options, a limited mission statement and poor resources linked to the website. Mark Harris from UI responded that they have made a number of strides to improve services even since the June Board meeting at the University of Iowa. They continue to make progress and the upcoming external review will further help address needs.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.