

Disability Rights and Concerns Committee
Meeting Notes
January 20, 2006

Attending: L. Abarno; S. Abraham; D. Dubois; K.Kallio; S. Knapp; V.N. Shastri.

- I. Introductions, EOL leave form.
- II. Notes from Sep 24, 2005 meeting reviewed and accepted.
- III. Old Business

1. Report from co-chairs

Dubois spoke with Joint labor Mgmt group about including disability as a covered category in Drescher awards. . They want “disabilities” included.

The announcement on website does include disability. See <http://www.uup.lmc.state.ny.us./diversity/index.html>

The announcement reads: “Funds are provided to enhance employment opportunities for minorities, women, persons with disabilities and Vietnam-era veterans by assisting them to prepare for permanent or continuing appointments within the State University of New York. “

The problem was thought to be in the actual application. [I just reviewed the application form and “disability” IS included on the application form and in the objectives. SK]

2. Items to add to the web page:

Nancy Belowich-Negron’s presentation - Knapp is working on it. And on the on the handout to chapters – draft distributed at previous mtg.

3. Suggestions for chapter committees -

Dubois said we should get chapters to request copies of their ADA compliance plans. Abraham said have Pres. Scheuerman request it on Chap Pres listserv and send to chapter Exec Boards. Kallio said we should draft an email specifying the name of the document and background and whom to ask for it. Suggest we have it returned to UUP central office – maybe to Tom Kriger’s office or his designee.

Dubois said Cornell has a new publication “Disability 101’. It would be helpful to new chapters and he will get details on it.

V. New Business

1. NYSUT resolution from the State Education Department regarding additional funding for disabled students. Knapp reported that the Exec Bd had already passed this resolution.
2. New project suggestion - discussion of safety. Knapp will find safety documents re: evacuation, etc. and they can be posted on our website.
3. Human and Civil Rights committee is sending resolution to the floor of DA calling on counties to get optical scan voting equipment to implement HAVA. Members present voted to cosponsor. [Turned out later, we didn't have a quorum to do that]
4. Committee would like to have a dinner speaker or performers. Buffalo State was awarded some honor? For its treatment of students with mental illness. – maybe a speaker there. USDOE has free speakers. Capital District Mental Health Players do performances to educate the public.

Dubois – 2010 will be the 20th year of the ADA. We should plan something for that. Kallio we could host a forum not necessarily as the Fri eve program.