



## Accessibility Advisory Committee

October 7, 2020  
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm  
Virtual meeting

### Draft Agenda

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**Chair:** Claire Hay

**Vice Chair:** Andrew Stahl

**Committee:**

Darrell Fox

Ken Harmel

Mark Goudsblom

Rebecca Wassef

Ted Zak

Maureen Wideman

Sandra Smith

Grant Fritzke

Prabhpreet Singh

Raji Balagopal

Lorna Andrews

Priscilla Ang

Stacie Dixon

Kristen Trustham

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1. **Approve Agenda** – Oct 7, 2020
  2. **Approve Minutes** – June 24, 2020
  3. **Blackboard Ally Demonstration** – Soowook Kim
  4. **Report from the Centre for Accessibility Services** –Rebecca Wassef
  5. **Accessibility Event**
  6. **Other Business**

**Next meeting: November 4, 2020**

## Minutes Draft

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**In Attendance:** Maureen Wideman (Acting Chair), Darrell Fox, Raji Balagopal, Ted Zak, Rebecca Wassef, Grant Fritzke, Sandra Smith, Priscilla Ang, Claire Hay, Andrew Stahl, Prabhpreet Singh

**Regrets:** Mark Goudsblom

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1. **Agenda** – June 24, 2020 approved

- **Add #6 BB Ally** – Maureen Wideman

2. **Minutes** – May 20, 2020 approved

3. **Report from the Centre for Accessibility Services** – Rebecca Wassef

Rebecca reports that students from the CAS are having mixed responses since classes went online in March. Some students are finding it challenging and withdrew in the Winter semester and don't plan on taking courses in the Summer or Fall semesters. Part of the challenge is that faculty are using timed questions for their online exams as a method of invigilation so students don't have time to look the answers up on the internet. Some students are finding the move to online school as a positive experience as their courses are more easily accessible and the lectures are pre-recorded which makes them more available. There doesn't seem to be any mobility issues right now and there has been a decrease in help needed except for the exams.

CAS has been directed not to facilitate F-2-F exams since Covid started and it's now the instructors responsibility to make sure CAS students are accommodated during exam time. Some specific areas in which CAS students can be accommodated during exams are extending the exam time, and the ability to go back and review questions, or change answers on the test. There has been an increase in student anxiety and counselling is seeing many panicked emails, however, this is getting better.

**Action Item:** Report from CAS as a standing item on the agenda going forward.

4. **Chair / Vice Chair Nominations for 2020-2021**

Claire Hay put forth her name as Chair and Andrew Stahl put forth his name as Vice Chair. The committee approved these nominations unanimously.

**5. Accessibility Event in September 2020**

A suggestion for a possible event in September included inviting Sam Sullivan, former Mayor of Vancouver, to share his experiences at an online speaking session. This session can be done on Zoom and would be available to anyone at UFV. The Committee could also hold an awareness day in May 2021 offering interactive hands-on sessions depending on if we are back on campus by then.

**Action item:** Revisit this agenda item at the next meeting.

**6. Blackboard Ally – Maureen Wideman**

Ally is a robust accessibility tool in Blackboard, our online learning management system that allows students to make changes to documents including contrasts, language, and font size. Another feature shows faculty how to make their tools and documents more accessible to meet the needs of the students.

It will take some extra work to set this up and training will be offered by the TLC. A pilot is happening this Fall 2020 and TLC is looking for volunteers to try out this tool. Please email Maureen if you are interested.

**7. Other Business**

No

Meeting Adjourned at 3:17 pm