

October 29, 2024 12:00 – 1:00PM

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## In Attendance

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Troy Olivier, Scot Atkins, Catherine Clark, Brian Trager, Annemarie Ross, Adrianna Smart, Patrick Graham, Clayton Ide, Erin Auble, Gary Behm (administrator) and Jennifer Cornwell (notetaker)

Guests: Gary Behm, Marge Cerillo, Jessica Williams (video message), Rick Postl(video message)

Absent: Sandra Bradley

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## Chair's Report – Patrick Graham

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1. Approval of Agenda from October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting: Approved as written
2. Communication Officer's report/approval of minutes
  - A. No report.
3. Chair's Report- Patrick Graham
  - A. The RIT faculty affairs committee are working on the process of changing the lecturer title. It is now out of NTID's hands.
  - B. Jess La Sala has convened a committee made up mostly department chairpeople to review the scholarship guidelines for the Workload Guidelines. The committee is expected to finish their charge soon.
4. Panel discussion: Communication trends and Sign language instruction for freshmen on RIT campus.
  - A. Rick Postl, Director of NTID Admissions (video available for review)
    1. The motto for marketing NTID is "Welcome All, Celebrate All" and this applies to NTID's philosophy of embracing all kinds of communication preferences. Currently NTID has roughly 1100 students (1200+ is ideal in light of our current operational capabilities).
    2. The challenge is to increase and recruit students from a variety of backgrounds.
      - A. 70% of students come from Mainstreamed schools. Of that number 41% are from "hearing programs" with little or no support.
      - B. Students from schools of the deaf are on the decline.
      - C. No requirement that students must learn ASL.
  - B. Jessica Williams, Director of Summer Transition Program (STP) (video available for review)
    1. ASL courses are offered for STP, however they are not required. 30% of STP students use spoken language, 30% use mostly ASL, the rest are a mixture of the two
  - C. Marge Cerillo, ASLIE and New Signers Program (NSP)
    1. Now NSP offers 3 or 4 credit courses. Recruitment is through Admissions (SLATE) and is offered as a 3 week long course in the summer. We have changed this to 4 credit courses because it makes it easier for students to move up in the course sequence. Sometimes students will repeat the course during the academic year.
  - D. Discussion:
    1. Gary Behm offered his take on the Institute's perspective. He reiterated Rick's use of the motto, "Welcome All, Celebrate All" and reinforced Rick's point that we aim for at least

1200 students for overall enrollment. The challenge at NTID is we are heavily dependent on interpreters and we need to figure out how to use our resources effectively. There are many oral students who have lower math and English scores and they need access to our AOS and AAS programs. In addition to Deaf teachers, we have CODAs who prefer to sign instead of using their voice. Captioning needs have gone up. NTID is looking at alternative solutions. NTID recognizes that offering ASL classes does help bridge the resource gap.

2. Brian suggested that we take advantage of the different stories of our Deaf and Hearing students learning signing at RIT because hearing people do benefit from these ASL classes and perhaps people may want to come to RIT because we offer something unique. For example, Scott Willis of DOW Chemical went to RIT and learned ASL here and now he has become the point of contact for our Deaf students applying for jobs at DOW.
  3. Questions for Rick or Jess? Please send them to Scot or Jennifer.
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5. Department Reports:
    - A. MSSE is now a “program” with “Department of Deaf Education” as a department. The soft opening for this will be announced in early spring.
  6. New Business
    - A. We asked Gary about the recent announcement that a NTID Strategic Planning Committee, headed by Richard (Rico) Peterson and Bernard Hurwitz. Gary says that NTID is waiting for the RIT 2025-2035 plan first and they will try to align processes to the new President’s wishes. The plan is very aggressive and NTID plans to ride on those efforts. It was suggested that we have some sort of commitment to make sure that we have follow through with the Strategic Planning Efforts.
  7. Action Items
    - A. Invite Bernie Hurwitz and discuss NTID job postings that do not require ASL skills.
    - B. Invite Gerry and Gary to discuss NTID faculty salary process. (ongoing)
  8. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Communication Officer, Scot Atkins