

## **ADA Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **April 26, 2013**

The ADA Committee met at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 26, 2013 via ITV in Room 423 in Vernon and Room 717 at Century City Center.

Members present were Deana Lehman, Chair, Judy Ditmore, John Hardin, Gary Don Harkey, Dean Johnston, Kelsey Lange, Kathy Peterson, Ruth Rascon, Michael Scott, Jo Ann Sharp, and Johnny Spence. Absent were Iva Belew, Bobbie Graf, Kristin Harris, Mary Rivard, and Betha Rutledge.

Ms. Lehman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

The first order of business was the approval of the April 25, 2012 meeting minutes. Judy Ditmore made the motion to approve the minutes as written and Jo Ann Sharp seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Lehman presented statistics of ADA students served by Special Services during Fall 2012. Categories included ethnicity, type of disability, accommodations provided, major, and GPA. She also summarized ethnicity, type of disability, and major of students who contacted Special Services before they enrolled at Vernon College. The time frame of this data was July of 2012 until the present.

During her Director's Report, Ms. Lehman informed the committee of topics that were discussed at the AHEAD in Texas Conference that she just attended. The difficulty of providing extended testing time to LVN students was brought up. Ms. Lehman reported that the presenters at the conference stated that the LVN program needed to be restructured in order to provide proper testing accommodations to ADA students. Dr. Harkey pointed out that the college is caught in the middle of providing proper accommodations and meeting state mandates to graduate students as quickly as possible.

Comfort animals was another topic of interest at the AHEAD Conference. Ms. Lehman related that a student won a lawsuit against the University of Nebraska at Kearney because they had denied her permission to have a comfort animal in her dorm room. The ruling for comfort animals falls under the Fair Housing Act instead of the ADA. The university is appealing the lawsuit.

A recent request from a blind student who wants to take online classes has brought the issue of universal design for the Vernon College website. A program called "AChecker" found five access problems on the Vernon College ADA website. Gary Don Harkey asked if she had contacted Joseph Porciuncula on this matter and she responded that she had. She encouraged everyone to be aware of this issue and check for accessibility.

During the open discussion period, Jo Ann Sharp made a suggestion to have a training session at staff development to teach personnel how to deal with students with autism spectrum disorder. Ms. Lehman said that she would be glad to provide that if the time was allotted at staff development.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.