Set hearing aid to T-Coil for use of Hearing Loop

Headsets are available for individuals without T-Coil equipped hearing aids

Disability and Accessibility Task Force

Fall 2014-Fall 2016

The Charge

- In the summer of 2014, the Disability and Accessibility Task Force was charged by the president to develop a comprehensive response to serving students, faculty, and staff with disabilities. Part of the motivation for the formation of the Task Force was regulatory compliance. However, the Task Force immediately broadened its focus and philosophy, adopting Universal Design as a guiding principle to reflect the College's core values.

Task Force Summary

- More than 50 faculty, staff, students, and alumni contributors

- Identification of 24 recommendations for campus improvement

- Broad scope—Digital, programmatic, and physical environments as well as campus climate

Definitions

- Disability: With regard to a person: "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment." (ADAAA definition)

- Accommodation: An adjustment or adaptation made in order for a person with a disability to be fully included in an educational, workplace or social setting or in an activity. Accommodations are made on an individual basis.

Definitions - Continued

- Accessibility: The degree to which a product, device, service or environment is available to as many people as possible.

- Universal Design: The design of products and environments to be useable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

Definitions - Summary

- At the level of the **<u>person</u>**:
  - Disability
  - Accommodation
- At the level of the **<u>environment/place</u>**:
  - Accessibility
  - Universal design

When our campus is made fully <u>accessible</u> using principles of <u>universal design</u>, more people are included and fewer individualized <u>accommodations</u> need to be made for people with <u>disabilities</u>.

Areas of Focus

- Raising campus awareness about legal obligations, individual rights, and creation of an inclusive environment.

- Designing a campus environment with seamless accessibility for faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

- Effectively implementing accommodations for students, employees, and visitors with disabilities.

Major Advancements

- Website updates & Siteimprove monitoring
- Grinnellshare resources pages
- Training and education
- Course materials deadline
- Event accommodations
- Classroom technology catalog
- Assistive listening devices

Major Advancements Continued

- Partnership with the Institute for Human Centered Design
- User/expert review training
- Renovation of SHACS, Digital Humanities Lab, & Campus Safety
- Testing accommodations
- NetNutrition
- Digital policy draft

Future Directions

- Accessibility leadership
- Digital accessibility
- Course materials
- Emergency planning
- Training and outreach
- Event access
- Physical and programmatic accessibility

Discussion

What advancements related to accessibility have you noticed?

What does Grinnell still need to do to advance accessibility and inclusion on campus?