

# **STUDENT ENHANCEMENT THROUGH ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY (SEAT) MINUTES**

**January 14, 1999**

**9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**UCB 220 Conference Room**

Members Present: Kathleen Collins, Charlie Jordan, Denise Labrecque, Donna Martin, Joe Sizemore, Craig Brooks, Brenda Starck, Donna Young

Members Absent: Bob Gates

1. The minutes of December 9, 1998, were approved as written.
2. Craig Brooks informed the committee that the electric adjustable table from Technopolis has been moved to the main floor in the Library. Charlie Jordan will have someone move the adaptive machine in the Library to this station. Kathleen Collins stated some students only need the trackball mouse only. Denise Labrecque said the adaptive machine was originally configured to be a physically impaired and visually impaired station. Joe Sizemore suggested we leave the station as it is currently configured. Charlie Jordan suggested we look at demand. If there is a heavy demand, he suggested looking at it. If not, he suggested we leave it as it currently is configured. (NOTE: On January 15, Dennis Isbell, Library, stated the Library's tech people placed a standard computer setup with a trackball at the adjustable table for two wheelchair-bound students who requested such a setup. Dennis stated they do not need all of the other features loaded on the present adaptive station, only a trackball because they have limited use of their hands. He felt this would give extra flexibility for serving disabled students to have two stations. He felt the configuration could be changed later to serve students with multiple disabilities.)
3. Donna Martin talked about the CSUN (California State University, Northridge) "Technology and Persons with Disabilities" tech fair on March 15-20 in Los Angeles. The committee felt it would be helpful to have a student representative attend this conference. Joe Sizemore stated he could not attend this year because of a prior commitment with his place of employment. Donna Martin suggested asking Robert Malone who is a student with various disabilities. Pacific Bell is offering registration fee waivers of around \$300 to students. The deadline to apply is February 12. Denise Labrecque also stated that the Campus Environment Team (CET) maybe could fund some of this trip. Denise will look into CET to see if they could fund some of this trip, and Donna Martin will look into Student Forum funding some costs of the trip for Robert. Craig Brooks will see if IT could fund him to attend this conference. (UPDATE: Robert Malone has decided to attend the conference. Robert has completed the scholarship application for the registration fee waiver. We should know by February 19 if he received the waiver. Donna Young brought the form needed for Robert to approach Student Forum for monies. Robert presented his request and received \$300. He still

needs \$241.78 (if he doesn't receive the fee waiver, it will be additional \$119). CET is not funding conferences anymore. DRC could take the remainder out of the Margaret Francis money if no other sources can be located.)

4. Donna Martin shared an article entitled, "Adaptive Technology and College Students with LD and ADHD," by Janice M. Lee, State University of New York, Binghamton. The article focuses on various technologies that she has tried and ways in which Binghamton University have used them. The article focuses on adaptive computer software, adaptive systems and adaptive tools. She doesn't support Dragon Dictate's Naturally Speaking because she felt the voice profile disintegrates over time, requiring it to be reconstructed from scratch. Donna is not proposing we replace Dragon Naturally Speaking on our campus. Donna's intent is to share the article to reflect a different perspective.
5. Donna Martin shared with the committee some new cassette tutorials to be used as a supplement to learning popular applications using JAWS for Windows. Fundamentals of Word 8 and Internet Explorer 4.01 are now available for \$79.95 each plus \$10 shipping and handling or both for \$149.95 plus shipping and handling. These are Henter-Joyce products. Joe Sizemore felt these should be safe products. Charlie Jordan thought it would not be a bad idea to look at all training materials. Topic was tabled for now.
6. Denise Labrecque informed the group that Desert Sky Middle School is planning on coming to campus on February 11. Brenda Starck will demonstrate Dragon Naturally Speaking, Charlie Jordan/Joe Sizemore (alternate) will demonstrate Jaws and Zoomtext. Donna Martin will demonstrate the smaller items. Denise Labrecque will demonstrate the Kurzweil and Joe Sizemore will be the alternate. The forty students will be broken into four groups of ten. The students will visit Technopolis, Library, UCB and DRC. These students have a range of disabilities and are in seventh or eighth grade. They will be here from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Denise will prepare a schedule.
7. Donna Martin will update the committee later on the progress of training DRC staff to train others.
8. Donna Martin shared a note with the committee that came from Nancy Badger regarding email accessibility. There are at least three individuals who use speech synthesizers to access their computers due to sensory disabilities. She suggested the following to make email more accessible to this population: 1. If you add an attachment to your email, please be sure to verbally mention that there is an added attachment. Speech synthesizers do not have a way of identifying attachments. 2. In general, keep graphics to a minimum. Speech synthesizers do not recognize them as text and will not read them. 3. In the body of the email message, always sign the message or mention who it is from. It takes many keystrokes to get a speech synthesizer to move from the body of a message to the "from" section of a message. 4. A speech synthesizer will read :) as colon right paren. If you mean

to convey a smile, it might be better to write (smile). 5. Avoid fancy scripts. Many times these are misread by speech synthesizers. Joe Sizemore added that there is a way to recognize attachments; however, it depends on the email program.

9. Charlie Jordan informed the committee that the Versapoint Braille embosser is back. Charlie and Joe Sizemore will work on it to determine if it is functioning properly.
10. Kathleen Collins informed the committee that she has accepted another position in the Library. She will let us know who her replacement will be as soon as an individual is identified. (NOTE: Maureen Morris, one of the new reference librarians, will be replacing Kathleen on the SEAT committee.)
11. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in UCB, Room 302.
12. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by:

Brenda L. Starck