Present: Linnea Marshall, Chair (Faculty/Library); Ernest Biller (Faculty/Teacher Ed.-Special Ed.); Trish Hartzell (Academic Administrator/MMBB); Meredyth Goodwin (Dir. of Tutoring and Academic Assistance Programs); Rochelle Smith (Faculty/Library); Jeannie Harvey (Dir. Women’s Ctr); Marlene Peterson (Facilities); Gloria Jensen (Crd. Disability Support Services); Andy Neukranz-Butler (Human Rights Compliance Officer); Harvey Hughett (ITS); Francisco Salinas (Multicultural Affairs)

Absent: Steve Beyerlein, Susan Childers, Kenneth Hart, Debbie Buchanan, Doug Vandenboom, Chase Carter, Charles Chambers.

Call to Order: Linnea Marshall called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Lounge.

Business:

1) The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as amended.

2) Director of Diversity and Community. Jeannie Harvey gave us a quick update on the status of the search for a new Director of Diversity and Community. The search committee has completed its work and met with President White to give him their input. The decision as to who will be the new director is now up to President White.

3) Disabled parking spaces. We continued with our discussion from our last meeting on the ADA parking spaces. Gloria Jensen had heard from Danielle Hess (Office of General Counsel) that the University will be providing parking for the student who had filed a complaint. Two spaces will be marked on University Ave. to provide access to the Commons and the TLC building. As well, one of the metered parking spaces in front of Shoup Hall and one gold parking space by Renfrew Hall will be converted to an ADA parking spaces. In the future, parking spaces for students with disabilities will be made available where needed on a semester by semester basis.

4) Transport van. Meredyth Goodwin and Gloria Jensen informed us that they were successful in their grant for a purchasing a wheel-chair accessible van for transporting students with disabilities. The grant is for $43,000 with $4,000 matching funds. However, there is no money for operating funds to pay for a driver and coordinator. It
will cost $35,000 each year to run the van. So far $21,000 has been committed by various departments and Meredyth and Gloria welcome ideas for where they can find additional operating funds. This van will run just on campus, including campus housing.

Wide-ranging discussion followed. Jeannie Harvey asked about the possibility of this van being used in the evenings for women as a safety transit program. Ideas for additional funding were discussed. Use of this van by students with disabilities will relieve some of the need for ADA parking. It was suggested that the van might run on biodiesel. A wider constituency might be served by allowing faculty and staff with mobility issues to use the van. If campus employees can ride, perhaps Human Resources would contribute to its expense.

5) **Disabled parking permits.** Currently Parking and Transportation Services requires an applicant to submit a letter from a doctor in order to process temporary permit allowing use of disabled parking spaces on campus. The problem is that there is not a good process for determining the length of time that a permit should be valid. Probably this is based on the doctor’s note. There have been cases of abusing the privilege (including permits being loaned to others who are not disabled). A possible solution could be to change the current process to have the individual who is applying for a UI temporary parking permit for disability reasons meet with Disability Support Services (DSS) first. Then DDS could determine an appropriate length of time for the permit and could monitor permits based on the actual length of the disability-related need. DSS would possibly fax a recommendation to Parking or provide the permit, depending on state requirements.

It was moved that the AA&DA Committee should enter into a discussion with Parking Services that they should make the process of issuing ADA parking permits more rigorous. Further, that we invite a representative from Parking to meet with the committee. We would request that Parking interact more closely with DSS in the issuing of these permits (Ernest Biller and Trish Hartzell). The motion was seconded (Meredyth Goodwin). Discussion followed and it was decided that Linnea Marshall, as the committee’s chair, with help from Ernest and others, prepare a letter inviting Parking Services to send a representative to our next meeting. We voted and the motion passed.

6) **Assistive Technology.** Harvey Hughett filled us in on the activities of Informational Technology Services in providing technology for students with disabilities. One of their employees, Tony Dishell, works one-on-one with students to set them up with assistive technology. Students can get access to the Assistive Technology Room (room 418) in the Library by going to DSS. Harvey told us that a portion of student fees goes to ADA student computing needs, and that this fund is never fully spent. Gloria said that there are computer labs on campus without ADA access and Harvey explained some of the difficulties with installing ADA software on machines in all labs. He asked what are the needs? Where can we help? Ernest inquired when was the last time a needs assessment was done. Harvey replied that it has been quite a while and a new one could be funded from the student computing fund.
It was moved that the AA&DA committee initiate the steps for arranging a needs assessment with regard to accessibility of assistive technology on campus (Biller). The motion was seconded (Francisco Salinas). Discussion followed.

Harvey told us that there are numerous Web sites associated with the University of Idaho and that if tested for disability access most would not pass. The University of Idaho has a responsibility to make all official university sites accessible (including all office, college, departmental, and faculty sites). There is software available that can do this testing, nevertheless, with so many sites to check, this would be an overwhelming task. Chris Cooney, Director of Web Communications, has volunteered to take the responsibility to train people who create Web sites across campus and he will work with ITS to be sure that the primary UI Web sites are compliant with the ADA. Harvey suggested that we bring Chris to one of our committee meetings to inform us of the problem.

Gloria said that there are older VCRs in use on campus that do not have the capability to display closed captioning for the hearing impaired. Some classes are presented via video. The university is required by federal regulation to accommodate these students.

We voted on the motion and it was passed.

There was discussion as to why the Assistive Technology Room was up on the fourth floor of the library instead of the more accessible first floor. Marlene Peterson said that she would take this concern back to Facilities.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 7, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. in the Brink Hall Faculty Lounge.

Respectfully submitted,

Linnea Marshall