ADA Accessibility Committee

7th Annual Report - August 31, 2018

ADA Accessibility Committee Chair: Carolyn Ellis, Assistant Dean, UTSA Libraries

Executive Champion: Samuel Gonzales, Vice President for Student Affairs

Members: Lisa Firmin, Yolanda Acosta, Carol Gonzalez, Dianne Hengst, Clay Haverland, John Quarles, Richard Harris, James Weaver, Frederick Hample, David Diaz, John Danner, Shashi Pinheiro, Ben Garrison, Benjamin Perry, and Annette Rabago

Purpose: The ADA Accessibility Committee will review and address the systemic ADA accessibility needs and issues that arise at UTSA. The ADA committee serves in an advisory capacity and makes recommendations to the President of The University of Texas at San Antonio as necessary in order to coordinate and improve the University's efforts to provide programs, activities, and facilities that are accessible in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008.

Progress to Date: The following is a list of areas of effort with an explanation of their progress to date:

1. ADA Website

   The website went live July 2013 and can be found at https://utsa.edu/ada/. Updates and content to the site continue to be made.

2. ADA Facility improvements

   Facilities is actively working on meeting the needs of Accessibility for future and current students. They are committed in creating an inviting, supportive and universally accessible environment. With current ADA assessments, studies, data collections and planning, UTSA Facilities is actively engaged in creating an Accessibility Plan. The Plan has several objectives:
   - Ensuring Access and Removing Barriers to University Services
   - Providing a More Accessible Campus Environment
- Improving Building Accessibility
- New Development Planning for Accessibility

In order to support the objectives they are currently in the process of working on many projects for improvements:

Facilities and Transportation had a parking Assessment done to insure the University was compliant with accessible parking. Facilities site verified and made recommendations for additional parking. This summer several parking lot where resurfaced and restriped.

Facilities collaborated with the City of San Antonio to create a safer new and improved Frio street pedestrian crossing. There is a new pedestrian crosswalk in development from Cattleman’s square and the Buena Vista Building across Buena Vista street.

LEER funded curb cuts in FY2019 to improve mobility and sidewalk connectivity.

Proposed Accessibility Maps to ensure all students, visitors, faculty and staff can view all ADA parking, paths and entries.

3. Research

This year, the committee began to investigate concerns regarding service animals in research labs. UTSA has no current policy; ADA regulations indicate service animals be allowed where the public is ‘normally’.

Currently, service animals may enter the research vivarium, however, with limited entry to certain labs. UTSA Lab Safety is currently handling each situation individually with the laboratory principal investigator and the individual requiring use of service animal. Beginning in fiscal year 2019, UTSA Office of Research Integrity (ORI) agreed to draft a policy regarding service animals in research labs (does not include emotional support animals).

4. Web Content

In response to the Web Content and Accessibility Internal Audit conducted in 2017-2018, University Communications and Marketing Web Team has taken the steps to address the findings in the audit report.

- Auditing, documenting and inventorying of the UTSA web presence including domain names, web servers, content management systems, web custodians and publishers (in partnership with the Office of Information Technology).
• Evaluating software, tools and resources to assess, improve and govern UTSA’s web presence. Primarily focusing on software and tools to monitor and diagnose accessibility issues and content quality.
• Present to President Eighmy and Senior Leadership Team audit findings and recommendations.

Recommendations: The committee has spent a great deal of time considering a set of recommendations for ADA at UTSA. A memo detailing the committee’s recommendations will be submitted separately to the President’s Office.

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Carolyn Ellis
Assistant Dean, UTSA Libraries
ADA Accessibility Chair