2016 Associated Students
AS Resource and Outreach Programs
Disability Outreach Center

As seen by AS Management Council
November 8, 2016

AS Assessment Process
Draft Recommendations
Introduction:

In conjunction with the office of Assessment, AS Resource and Outreach Programs Disability Outreach Center underwent assessment during the trial year of 2016-2017, Fall Quarter. The mission statement for AS Resource and Outreach Program is as follows:

The purpose of the seven centers of the Resource and Outreach Programs (ROP) is to provide information, advocacy, activities, and peer education to Western Students. The ROP strives to empower and support all members of WWU’s diverse community. The ROP also provides the opportunity for WWU students to gain valuable work, volunteer, and life experience.

The purpose of the Disability Outreach Center from the ASWWU Program Standards is as follows:

The AS Disability Outreach Center (DOC) is a resource for students with disabilities and community allies. The DOC provides information, referrals and educational programming relating to disability topics in order to provide students with a connection to community resources, raise awareness and to advocate for their human and civil rights. The DOC also provides a safe space for all students, social programming and promotes community building and pride for students with disabilities.

Programs/Services Provided, October 2012 - June 2016

2012-2013
Oct. 10th In Our Own Voice 4
  Co-Sponsored with NAMI Whatcom
Oct. 26th 3rd Annual Costume Ball 264
  Co-Sponsored with the SIRC
Nov. 15th Donuts and Disabilities 9
Dec. 7th Edens Hall – DOC Movie Night: “Music Within” 12
  Co-Sponsored with Edens Res Life
Jan. 28th Disabling Discrimination: Red Ribbon Jars of Hope 2
  Co-Sponsored with LIC
May 14th DAW: Steve Ferreira 30
May 14th DAW: The Wheelchair Experience 11
May 16th DAW: Out of the Ashes 40
  Co-Sponsored with SIFF (Sharing Interests Forming Friendships)
May 17th DAW: The Wheelchair Panel 20

Total DOC events: 9 Total attendance: 392 Average: 44

2013-2014
Oct. 25th 4th Annual Costume Ball 300
  Co-Sponsored with the QRC
Dec. 5th Disability Etiquette Workshop 12
Jan. 24th Women’s Health Night 200
  Co-Sponsored with WC
May 7th Campus Accessibility Forum 8
  Co-Sponsored with LIC
May 12th  DAW: Out of the Ashes  50  
*Co-Sponsored with UGCH*

May 13th  DAW: Harilyn Rousso  4

May 15th  DAW: Art Therapy  10

May 17th  DAW: Outdoors for All  30

**Total DOC events: 8 Total attendance: 614 Average: 77**

2014-2015

Oct. 1st  Disabilities & Donuts  25

Dec. 3rd  Ridge Disability Workshop  5

Feb. 18th  Accessibility Forum  7  
*Co-Sponsored with LIC*

May 11th  DAW: Disability 101  6

May 12th  DAW: Jose Alaniz  9  
*Co-Sponsored with WWU Communications Dept.*

May 12th  DAW: Art Therapy through Journaling  31

May 13th  DAW: Out of the Ashes  39

May 14th  DAW: Clementine von Radicks  42

**Total DOC events: 9 Total attendance: 164 Average: 18**

2015-2016

Oct. 1st  Disabilities & Donuts  10

Oct. 15th  Disability 101 Workshop  19

Nov. 5th  Accessibility Forum  20  
*Co-Sponsored with LIC*

Jan. 12th  Mental Health & SAD Screening  100  
*Co-Sponsored with BRAVE*

Feb. 23rd  Coffee, Crafts, & Concerns  9

Apr. 25th  DAW: Kickoff! (Red Square Tabling)  n/a

Apr. 26th  DAW: Out of the Ashes  40

May 3rd  DAW: Exploring the Disability Rights Movement  25

May 14th  DAW: Panel of Professionals  30

**Total DOC events: 9 Total attendance: 253 Average: 28**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCOT Analysis</th>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>Harmful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Strengths:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Challenges:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Information about community (WWU and Bellingham) resources</td>
<td>• Few office practices</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Wide range of disability information in office (library and brochures)</td>
<td>• Small Staff (one person in office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>External</strong></td>
<td><strong>Opportunities:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Threats:</strong></td>
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<td>• SDAC can be a valuable tool in the DOC for implementing change</td>
<td>• WWU community integrated efforts (SDAC) don’t allow for much organizational change</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Institutionalizing annual office events to better establish office and community</td>
<td>• Actual physical accessibility to office (Confusing elevator 5E/W)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Continual community on Facebook through page or group discussing disability information and news</td>
<td>• Confusion of this office with Disability Resources for Students</td>
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<td>• Creating more of an awareness of this office to WWU</td>
<td>• Budget cuts; this office has surplus, but organizationally that is seen as opportunity for cuts, too much will disallow for office growth (direly needed)</td>
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<td>• Little to no connection with any clubs on campus, but SDAC can be that opportunity</td>
<td>• Little to know connection to WWU, Bellingham/local clubs</td>
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<td>• Asking DRS to advertise the DOC and make a habit of mentioning our programs to students at DRS</td>
<td>• Little to no WWU community for people to freely talk about disabilities</td>
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Recommendations 2016-17:

1. Increase community support

The DOC was founded in 2010, following the advocation of a disabled identity based club. Following the creation of the DOC, much of the club’s leadership moved on to leadership in the DOC. This led to a lack of interest, ending in the dissolution of the club. Without the club, there is now little support for the community outside DOC events. See below for the recommended ways to increase community.

- **Liaison with Disability Resource Services (DRS):** The work for this was begun by the 2015-2016 DOC coordinator, and its foundations can be seen in their legacy document (see attached). However, due to a change in staff within DRS, this has not been revisited in the current year. Revisiting this topic with new staff will further the connection between the two offices.

- **Start a private Facebook group for students with disabilities:** Currently, there is no general club on campus for students with disabilities. However, as evidenced by the previous dissolution of the club for students with disabilities, there is interest on campus, but a void in leadership. Linking the club to the office will help to maintain the club even through shifting leadership.

- **Outreach to specific majors and minors:** A trend on campuses nationwide, and here at WWU is the emergence of academic spaces dedicated to social and social justice issues. If these specific groups are outreached to, specifically those which have emerged and been reshaped by the changing social justice dialogue, a great sample of the student body will become informed of the DOC’s events and services. See below for a possible list.

  - American Cultural Studies
  - Anthropology
  - Art Education
  - Art History
  - Art Education
  - Behavioral Neuroscience
  - Communication Sciences and Disorders
  - Community Health
  - Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration
  - History/Social Studies
  - Human Services
  - Music Education
  - Recreation
  - Special Education
2. *Perpetuate already in place resources and physical location to maintain accessibility through the planned AS restructure*

In a previous Assessment, it was found a move from VU 528 to VU 513 was necessary for the optimum accessibility of the DOC. As the AS goes through many changes, it must be remembered that the DOC must be actively made accessible. Additionally, in a previous budgeting cycle, the budget of the DOC was cut substantially. As the office is still relatively new, it must be allowed to work within a more stable budget for some time.