The Disability Advisory Committee is charged with assessing the campus environment and climate for appropriate accessibility, serving as an advisory board regarding recommendations for meeting the needs of persons with disabilities at TU, ensuring that key administrators are informed of emerging disability issues on campus, fostering collaborations across campus to promote a welcoming climate, and promoting education and training to increase disability awareness.

The Committee met once as a group this past year but individual committee members undertook a number of activities, including the following.

**Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Initiative.** Last year the Committee met with the Assistant Provost, Dr. Jane Neapolitan, regarding the promotion of UDL principles by the Office of Academic Innovation. This year, Dr. Betsy Neville followed up by meeting again with the Assistant Provost to discuss ways to introduce and promote UDL principles through faculty professional development opportunities. Dr. Liz Berquist from the Department of Special Education provided valuable information and support, working closely with the Office of Academic Innovation to lead this initiative. The theme of the TU January Conference was “University of One: Transforming Traditions to Reach Every Student.” Dr. David Rose, CEO and Co-founder of CAST, was the keynote speaker, with presentations throughout the session to demonstrate UDL implementation across campus. In collaboration with the Department of Special Education, OAI sponsored UDL faculty-led workshops and professional learning communities for faculty during the spring semester.

**Towson University Captioning Guidelines.** This past year, Ms. Susan Willemin worked with University Marketing and Communications and TU Captioning Solutions/ICART to develop TU guidelines for captioning of media at Towson University in accordance with the ADA and Section 508. The guidelines can be accessed through the University Marketing and Communications website at: [http://fusion.towson.edu/www/captioning/caption_request.cfm](http://fusion.towson.edu/www/captioning/caption_request.cfm). This initiative involved developing the guidelines and procedures, identifying funding sources to help pay for captioning, and creating an on-line video captioning request form.

**Commencement Captioning Initiative.** Mr. Dan Leonard collaborated with University Marketing and Communications and TU Captioning Solutions/ICART on a new initiative to provide captioning at all six spring commencement ceremonies to provide greater access for all those attending. This was in addition to sign language interpreting that was provided for deaf individuals.

**Facilities Management Accessibility Projects.** Ms. Lisa Taylor reported that the ADA elevator lift project in the Media Center was completed. An upcoming project is to ensure ADA compliant water fountains in every building on campus.
**Towson University Accessibility Guide.** Ms. Susan Willemin, Ms. Pam Mooney and Ms. Lisa Taylor collaborated worked with Mr. Rick Pallansch in Creative Services to update the Towson University Accessibility Guide for students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. The guide includes a campus map that shows paths and walks by grade, para transit pick up locations, accessible parking, as well as areas under construction. The guide is available as a brochure from the DSS office, as well as on line at:
http://www.towson.edu/creativeservices/images/Campusmap_ACCESSIBILITY.pdf

**Para Transit/Parking & Transportation Services.** Ms. Pam Mooney reported that Parking and Transportation Services initiated a process for transporting 6-8 employees to and from the ES building and West Village garage while the lot was under construction. Para transit also assisted with transporting a student in a wheelchair to her internship from her home and to school on a regular basis during the spring semester due to exceptional circumstances. During Commencement, Parking and Transportation continued as an active participant in planning and supporting golf cart services for individuals with mobility impairments.

**ADA Coordinator.** Ms. Susan Willemin again requested that an ADA Coordinator position be included as a funding initiative in the TU budget request for FY15. This request was made through the V.P. of Student Affairs.

**FY 2013-2014 Committee Members:**

Bob Giordani, Registrar, Chair
Barbara English, Associate University Counsel
Jerry Jerome, Faculty, Department of Kinesiology
Dan Leonard, President’s Office, Fair Practices Officer
Pamela Mooney, Parking and Transportation Services
Betsy Neville, Chair, Department of Special Education
Lisa Taylor Project Manager, Facilities Management
Susan Willemin, Disability Support Services