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 twice as a group in 2015-16. Individual committee members were involved in a number of important accessibility projects, three of which are described below.

- **ADA Coordinator Position.** Both an ADA Coordinator position and Deputy ADA Coordinator position were created and filled this year. Dan Leonard, formerly the Fair Practices Officer, was appointed as ADA Coordinator. Crystal Tenan, formerly the DSS Assistive Technology Specialist, was hired to fill the Deputy ADA Coordinator position after a national search. Both coordinators are now housed in the new Office of Institutional Equity, formerly the Office of Fair Practices, which has expanded its services to include both ADA and Title IX oversight.

  With respect to the ADA, the role of this office is to guide the University’s efforts to move beyond compliance and towards seamless access. The office serves as the University’s focal point for disability-related initiatives, and it collaborates with other University offices, governmental agencies, and advocacy groups to inform decision making and ensure University compliance with State and Federal mandates. To accomplish this, the office is a referral point for disability-related information, services and resources; provides consultation on policy reviews and facilities planning; conducts workshops and training on disability-related topics; serves as a clearinghouse for disability-related complaints; and develops disability-related initiatives.

- **Towson University Website Accessibility.** Website content must be accessible to people with disabilities under Section 504 and the ADA, and universities are responsible for addressing information and technology accessibility. Matt Wynd, Director of Information Technology Support Centers, has been instrumental in ensuring that the new Towson University website is accessible to people with disabilities and compliant with WCAG2AA (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) standards. Towson University implemented the new website OmniUpdate Content management system this past spring. It prompts users to make changes before publishing pages if the content does not meet the WCAG accessibility standards.

- **USM Accessible Technology and Information Workgroup.** Given the scope of the task of making electronic information accessible, Susan Willemin, Director of Disability Support Services, continued to work with other USM DSS Directors as part of a USM Accessible Technology and Information Workgroup. The goal of the group is to pool USM resources and tackle electronic accessibility on a system-wide basis, in a manner...
similar to that of the University of California system. The workgroup has been collaborating with Don Spicer, USM Associate Vice Chancellor and CIO, and has spent the past year meeting with various stakeholders across the USM to obtain buy in. Stakeholder meetings have included the USM CIOs, Provosts, V.P.s for Administration & Finance, the Academic Transformation Advisory Council, and Procurement Officers. The workgroup has drafted a report containing recommendations pertaining to web accessibility, accessibility of online courses and materials, captioning, accessible library materials, and procurement of accessible technology. Further impetus was given to these efforts with the recent University of Maryland lawsuit over captioning at athletic events.

**FY 2015-2016 Committee Members:**

Bob Giordani, Registrar, Chair  
Michelle Dacey, Leave & Timekeeping Coordinator, Human Resources  
Barbara English, Associate University Counsel  
Jerry Jerome, Faculty, Department of Kinesiology  
Dan Leonard, ADA Coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity  
Pamela Mooney, Director, Parking and Transportation Services  
Betsy Neville, Chair, Department of Special Education  
Lisa Taylor, Project Manager, Facilities Management  
Crystal Tenan, Deputy ADA Coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity  
Susan Willemin, Director, Disability Support Services  
Matt Wynd, Director, Information Technology Support Centers