

ADA Advisory Committee Meeting

March 25, 2026 (Wednesday)

11:00 a.m.

Attendance: Chantel Gillenwater, Cindy Smith, Chase Varner, Jennifer Tougas, Kyle Davenport, Blair Jensen, Kirk Laughlin, Jay Carroll, Jimmie Martin, Josh Mudgett, Amanda Hardin, Hannah Digges-Elliott

Meeting Purpose: To review committee activity from the past year, assess current accessibility initiatives, and prepare for the April 2026 Accessibility Mandate deadline.

Agenda Overview:

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Brief opening remarks and confirmation of attendance.
- **Recap of Last Meeting:** Summary of past discussions.
- **Review of Committee Membership:** Confirmation of current members, any role changes, and identification of vacancies or needed representation.
 - Maddie Craig has graduated. Chase Varner will be graduating. The committee will need a new representative from SARC.
- **Accessibility Mandate Deadline: April 2026:** Status check on readiness and remaining tasks.
 - Chantel shared a checklist, reviewed its purpose, and asked the Committee if they would be willing to review and provide feedback and input.
- **Accessibility Policy Status:** Update on policy development or revisions, timeline for completion, and next steps for approval.
 - Chantel thanked the committee for their feedback regarding the Accessibility Policy. The policy has been reviewed by the Office of General Counsel and will be submitted to the President's Cabinet for approval April 13, 2026, Cabinet meeting.
- **Review of Submitted Reports:** Brief discussion of the reports provided by ADA Advisory Committee members focusing on data highlights.

- The Committee discussed accessibility training for CMS users and possibly mandating training and refresher training.
 - WKU Online shared a recent review of websites by screen readers and condensing of said websites; in addition to taking down old social media accounts associated with the department.
 - Regarding the WKU Libraries report, Chantel asked Amanda to share the sensory study room number. It is Cravens 602 and Amanda noted it is frequently used.
 - For Parking and Transportation Services, Jennifer provided additional information regarding discussions surrounding the ADA van service, budget challenges, and possibility of utilizing the Go BG van.
 - Facilities shared that there have been no issues or complaints. Kyle said they were not contacted during the ice and snowstorm, so they assumed everything was accessible.
- **Open Discussion:** Space for additional thoughts, concerns, or emerging issues from committee members.
 - Chase from SARC shared that accessibility has two prongs – reality and perception. He shared that perception is how accessibility is viewed on campus and affects culture. He shared that it is often more important to not only focus on compliance but how accessibility is being perceived by the students. He specifically noted the dorms as precarious areas.
 - Blair noted that the dorms are in a period of transition with accessibility and universal design at the forefront of elevating new residence halls. She also noted that all new residence halls are hotel and suite styles to address the accessibility requests for more private bathrooms. Hilltopper Hall will be demolished after graduation. Hugh Poland and Douglas Keen dorms will be demolished to start new construction. Jennifer shared that we are going through growing pains right now with the dorm situation, but the end results will be great for the university.
 - Hannah noted that CITL has always operated with a focus on accessibility and has had Ally for 10 years, but new legislation is allowing a shift from asking nicely to requiring accessible content. She shared that engagement from faculty with Ally was low in the past, but that is changing. Regarding the email to faculty about courses being required to be accessible is working and more faculty are attending training.
- **Next Steps and Action Items:** Next area reports and scheduling of next meeting.
 - The committee decided to meet and submit reports twice a year in March and September. The next meeting will be in September 2026.