Accessible Technology Initiative Meeting
Tuesday, November 7, 2006
Studio A
Meeting Notes

PRESENT:
Dave Abbott, Van Alexander, Jeanette Alosi, Pat Berry, Drew Calandrella, Peter DiFalco, Tony Dunn, Lauri Evans, Kathy Fernandes, Nancy Hermanson, Pattie Jenkins, Scott Jungling, Deborah Lemmo, Bill Loker, Sandy Parsons, Paul Persons, Bill Post, Linda Post, Chris Prator, Jerry Ringel, Sara Trechter, Hsuying Ward, Phyllis Weddington, Jed Wyrick, and Jaime Nelson.

INITIATIVE BACKGROUND
Bill Post reviewed the legislation and policy that has lead to the ATI, including the Coded Memo AA 2006-41: "Access to Electronic and Information Technology for Persons with Disabilities" from September 29, 2006.

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE
Bill presented the three implementation priorities of the Accessible Technology Initiative (ATI). They are Web Accessibility, Instructional Materials Accessibility, and Accessible Electronic and Information Technology (E&IT) Procurement. The structure and memberships of the Steering Committee and Priority Teams 1, 2, and 3 were presented as well.

CHANCELLOR'S WORKSHOP DEBRIEF (October 31, 2006 in Los Angeles)
Paul Persons: Take home from workshop is that the university needs to provide access that is consistent with academic freedom principles. There is no "one size fits all" method to accessibility. Students need access to materials on the first day of class just as any student would – standard of practice to be "as effective as…" Practicality and functionality for faculty is of great importance. Bill Loker asked about "on demand access" for materials and Paul responded that the goal is to be proactive rather than reactive. Legally, Paul pointed out that individual plaintiffs are not necessary to bring suit against a campus; simply the lack of accessibility can put a university at risk for a lawsuit.

Dave Abbott: Dave reported that a timely provision of materials such as WebCT and video/multi-media is important and that these materials need to be transcribed and synchronized to be available to disabled students. Dave also spoke about a tool that evaluates web pages to make sure they are compliant with the initiatives set forth in the Coded Memo.

Pat Berry: Pat reported that the top 20 most-viewed pages on our website need to comply with Section 508 by January of 2007. CSU, Chico may participate in testing a tool that monitors websites for accessibility, but a person is still needed to make actual changes to website. Department "webmasters" need to be trained to know what is or is not accessible content for compliance.

Pattie Jenkins: Formal bids, Requests for Proposal, and Invitations to Bid will be the first processes to fall under new Section 508 procurement standards. Pattie reported that lead times may increase due to accessible procurement. The Sponsor can sign off on purchases that do not comply with the initiative if a "good-faith effort" is made to purchase items that are in compliance. Exceptions are made if there is an undue burden or if accessible technology will create a functional alteration.

Phyllis Weddington: Phyllis presented the timeline for compliance with the ATI.

NEXT STEPS
Sara Trechter said that work is being done on a draft in the Academic Senate. Team meetings are to begin the week of November 13th. Sara expressed that faculty opinion of the ATI is that it is scary and will cause problems and stress. Bill replied that it is very important to have a clear communication strategy to alleviate faculty fear and anxiety and to present the initiative as a positive shift that will help students. Drew Calandrella said that an attack from multiple fronts instead of one at a time will enable our campus to achieve accessibility goals easier and quicker.

Bill asked Sandy Parsons to get together with Phyllis to work on ATI meetings and a communication plan.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.