



Accessibility & Accommodations Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 5, 2024

Time: 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Attendees: Julia Huyck (chair), Ariel Hight, Samantha Stiepan, Ed Rubel, Ramnarayan Ramachandran

The committee convened with brief introductions, sharing names, backgrounds, and current projects, accompanied by light conversation.

The committee briefly discussed planning an accessibility session for the 2026 ARO meeting. The committee discussed the challenges of securing speakers in time for a special session at the upcoming 2025 MidWinter meeting and agreed to collaborate on compiling a list of potential speakers for a 2026 submission. It was clarified that the session would be more of a symposium than a workshop, aiming to raise awareness about accessibility and provide resources to enhance the accessibility of presentations and posters.

The discussion then shifted to accessibility in poster design. The committee reviewed key factors such as font size, visual organization, and contrast. It was noted that the ARO website offers publicly available resources, including templates and tips for creating accessible posters. The executive office will link the resource page in all future submission announcement emails that go out to the membership.

The committee also explored the idea of hosting a virtual coffee hour focused on poster creation and inclusive presentations before the 2025 ARO MidWinter meeting. This session could be recorded and made available for later viewing.

Concerns were raised regarding the accessibility and affordability of the general meeting, particularly for graduate students. The committee agreed to present these issues to the council, including suggestions for digital poster access and alternative lodging options.

It was confirmed that an accessibility statement would be included with abstract acceptances, and the executive office will update the existing statement. Additionally, an ongoing website overhaul aims to improve resource accessibility and navigation.

The team discussed the possibility of offering conference recordings to all ARO members and allowing members to submit their conference posters for digital archiving. The final decision on these matters will rest with the ARO council and executive office, who will provide an update on feasibility.

Due to the holiday, the executive office will send out an updated committee meeting invite for September. The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 9th at 2:00 PM EST.