Accessibility & Accommodations Meeting 4.23.26

PR 2026 Recap

General Comments on the Conference /Poster Rating

- It's a great way to engage participants.
- What would we need to do to be able to have at a larger scale?
- It would be nice if this could run through an AI program at digital submission and grade them on specific criteria early.
- E-submissions of their ratings (to presenters) went well, but very few had their emails on their poster, which caused an extra step for reviewers.
- The committee is interested in the post meeting feedback on this effort. Did this change the needle now that feedback was given via email.
- As a rater, the form was finnicky due to the internet. It took longer to submit than it really should have.
- Would love a more streamlined process. Google forms wasn't a great application.
- Liked that it was sent to the presenters, but tons more steps for the committee.
- Like to continue project; raises lots of awareness.
- Include on the Committee Accessibility poster – info on the color-blind app, other apps that can help highlight accessibilities options. QR codes with links to the apps.
- Provide poster captioning in the poster hall. *popular idea*

Review work over the last 3 years

- No one came to office hours this year. Instead, make appointment based?
    - Decide who takes the call based on expertise or availability.
- The coffee session would be great to do again.
- Funding – ADA Title 2 changes in 2027 – are we impacted by these new requirements.
  50K or less April 2028

Symposium/Special Session on Conference Accessibility

- Possibly start with history of accessibility at the ARO meeting, 30-minute talk.
- 3 speakers and 1 round table discussion with people with disabilities.
    - 15 minute talks by invited speakers; 15 minutes for panel discussion.
    - Fill out the panel with long-standing meeting attendees and they could comment on how things have changed over the years @ the meeting?
- Ariel to draft the invitation email; share for review; and send out.
- Request a special schedule dispensation to make it longer?
- ARO 50th Meeting – 2027
    - T-lock on history – possible other time?
    - Is there something that can be part of the presidential plenary?
- Get invites out sooner rather than later. Simmer with the thoughts to come up with plans by next meeting.

Long-term goals for the Committee

- *Invited to also send thoughts via email to Ariel*.
- Try to insert ourselves more prominently in the president symposium and the awards.
  Figure out some type of award or token in recognition for Accessibility would be great.
- Opportunity to be more intentional about collecting data around accessibly.
    - General or very specific topic.
- SPARRO – directly connected to the students who go to ARO. How could we better engage the students? Can the committee sit in their town hall event? Have a special reception/breakfast? Ensure we have a SPARRO rep comes regularly to the committee meetings.
- Ways to engage the students through awards – certificates for those who get 3 stars on their posters?
    - Can those posters be moved to first sessions so they can be judged at the same time?
    - Could we rate their oral presentations as well as the poster? Nice to include the oral presentations.
- Recognize at the awards ceremony.
- Does it make sense to have an award that is an exception accessibly advocate?
    - A new yearly award or just for the 50th or every so many years (every 2 or 5).
    - Highlights the mentors and PIs that are leading the work.
    - Need to work with the awards committee.