

Advisory Group for Accessibility, Disability, and Universal Design

Rhodes College

September 2023 Update

In the fall of 2022, Rhodes College established the Advisory Group on Accessibility, Disability, and Universal Design, which reflects The College's commitment to institutional inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility and to fostering a sense of belonging among all members of the college community, including persons with disabilities. The advisory group's role is to ensure broad institutional input on matters relating to persons with disabilities of all characteristics at Rhodes College.

The purpose of the advisory group:

- Promote knowledge and advocacy in the areas of disability, accessibility, and Universal Design.
- Promote disability awareness, access, and inclusion in campus policies, procedures, training, and resources.
- Promote an understanding of the connections to other kinds of diversity we want to encourage on our campus.
- Advocate for campus planning on all levels to consider Universal Design principles and best practices.
- Advise the president and senior leadership regarding access compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and best practices in fostering a truly inclusive, diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

Membership consists of faculty, staff, and students who were appointed by the President in 2022 and agreed to serve a two-year term. Members for 2023-24 are listed below.

Faculty:

- Kim Brien, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Chemistry
- Eric Gotlieb, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Mathematics & Computer Science
- Eric Henager, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Spanish
- Vanessa Rogers, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Music

Staff:

- Anne Beard, Chief of Staff, Co-Chair
- Darlene Brooks, Director, Barret Library
- Melissa Butler, Director of Student Accessibility Services, Co-Chair
- Brian Foshee, Director of Physical Plant
- Martha McGeachy, Benefits Manager, Human Resources
- Alexa O'Hara, Student Outreach & Support

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- Members: Melissa Butler, Sophie Garau '25, Eric Gotlieb, Eric Henager, Vanessa Rogers, Sherry Turner.
4. 
 - Focus: Advise on revisions to existing access-related policies and new college policies to eliminate/prevent barriers for individuals with disabilities. Identify disability-related training needs for college employees and develop a centralized resource repository.
 5. 
 - Focus: Examine campus attitudes and perceptions of disability and accessibility in our community. Identify necessary awareness training and resources to promote increased access, inclusion, and sense of belonging for students and employees with disabilities.

Anne Beard and Melissa Butler will co-chair the advisory group from fall 2023 through spring 2024. The advisory group will meet in early fall 2023 to discuss updates and identify priorities for fall 2023/spring 2024.