

2016 Associated Students

**AS Resource and Outreach Programs
Disability Outreach Center**

**As seen by AS Management Council
November 8, 2016**

AS Assessment Process
Draft Recommendations



Introduction:

In conjunction with the office of Assessment, AS Resource and Outreach Programs Disability Outreach Center underwent assessment during the trial year of 2016-2017, Fall Quarter. The mission statement for AS Resource and Outreach Program is as follows:

The purpose of the seven centers of the Resource and Outreach Programs (ROP) is to provide information, advocacy, activities, and peer education to Western Students. The ROP strives to empower and support all members of WWU's diverse community. The ROP also provides the opportunity for WWU students to gain valuable work, volunteer, and life experience.

The purpose of the Disability Outreach Center from the ASWWU Program Standards is as follows:

The AS Disability Outreach Center (DOC) is a resource for students with disabilities and community allies. The DOC provides information, referrals and educational programming relating to disability topics in order to provide students with a connection to community resources, raise awareness and to advocate for their human and civil rights. The DOC also provides a safe space for all students, social programming and promotes community building and pride for students with disabilities.

Programs/Services Provided, October 2012 - June 2016

2012-2013

Oct. 10 th	In Our Own Voice <i>Co-Sponsored with NAMI Whatcom</i>	4
Oct. 26 th	3rd Annual Costume Ball <i>Co-Sponsored with the SIRC</i>	264
Nov. 15 th	Donuts and Disabilities	9
Dec. 7 th	Edens Hall - DOC Movie Night: "Music Within" <i>Co-Sponsored with Edens Res Life</i>	12
Jan. 28 th	Disabling Discrimination: Red Ribbon Jars of Hope <i>Co-Sponsored with LIC</i>	2
May 14 th	DAW: Steve Ferreira	30
May 14 th	DAW : The Wheelchair Experience	11
May 16 th	DAW : Out of the Ashes <i>Co-Sponsored with SIFF (Sharing Interests Forming Friendships)</i>	40
May 17 th	DAW : The Wheelchair Panel	20

Total DOC events: 9 Total attendance: 392 Average: 44
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2013-2014

Oct. 25 th	4 th Annual Costume Ball <i>Co-Sponsored with the ORC</i>	300
Dec. 5 th	Disability Etiquette Workshop	12
Jan. 24 th	Women's Health Night <i>Co-Sponsored with WC</i>	200
May 7 th	Campus Accessibility Forum <i>Co-Sponsored with LIC</i>	8

May 12 th	DAW : Out of the Ashes <i>Co-Sponsored with UGCH</i>	50
May 13 th	DAW : Harilyn Rousso	4
May 15 th	DAW : Art Therapy	10
May 17 th	DAW : Outdoors for All	30

Total DOC events: 8 Total attendance: 614 Average: 77

2014-2015

Oct. 1 st	Disabilities & Donuts	25
Dec. 3 rd	Ridge Disability Workshop	5
Feb. 18 th	Accessibility Forum <i>Co-Sponsored with LIC</i>	7
May 11 th	DAW: Disability 101	6
May 12 th	DAW: Jose Alaniz <i>Co-Sponsored with WWU Communications Dept.</i>	9
May 12 th	DAW: Art Therapy through Journaling	31
May 13 th	DAW : Out of the Ashes	39
May 14 th	DAW : Clementine von Radicks	42

Total DOC events: 9 Total attendance: 164 Average: 18

2015-2016

Oct. 1 st	Disabilities & Donuts	10
Oct. 15 th	Disability 101 Workshop	19
Nov. 5 th	Accessibility Forum <i>Co-Sponsored with LIC</i>	20
Jan. 12 th	Mental Health & SAD Screening <i>Co-Sponsored with BRAVE</i>	100
Feb. 23 rd	Coffee, Crafts, & Concerns	9
Apr. 25 th	DAW: Kickoff! (Red Square Tabling)	n/a
Apr. 26 th	DAW : Out of the Ashes	40
May 3 rd	DAW: Exploring the Disability Rights Movement	25
May 14 th	DAW: Panel of Professionals	30

Total DOC events: 9 Total attendance: 253 Average: 28

SCOT Analysis	Helpful	Harmful
Internal	<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about community (WWU and Bellingham) resources • Wide range of disability information in office (library and brochures) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few office practices • Small Staff (one person in office) • Having more events, range of events to interest community • No focus on outreach • Small Office Library
External	<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDAC can be a valuable tool in the DOC for implementing change • Institutionalizing annual office events to better establish office and community • Continual community on Facebook through page or group discussing disability information and news • Creating more of an awareness of this office to WWU • Little to no connection with any clubs on campus, but SDAC can be that opportunity • Asking DRS to advertise the DOC and make a habit of mentioning our programs to students at DRS 	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWU community integrated efforts(SDAC) don't allow for much organizational change • Actual physical accessibility to office (Confusing elevator 5E/W) • Confusion of this office with Disability Resources for Students • Budget cuts; this office has surplus, but organizationally that is seen as opportunity for cuts, too much will disallow for office growth (direly needed) • Little to know connection to WWU, Bellingham/local clubs • Little to no WWU community for people to freely talk about disabilities

Recommendations 2016-17:

1. Increase community support

The DOC was founded in 2010, following the advocacy of a disabled identity based club. Following the creation of the DOC, much of the club's leadership moved on to leadership in the DOC. This led to a lack of interest, ending in the dissolution of the club. Without the club, there is now little support for the community outside DOC events. See below for the recommended ways to increase community.

- **Liaison with Disability Resource Services (DRS):** The work for this was begun by the 2015-2016 DOC coordinator, and its foundations can be seen in their legacy document (see attached). However, due to a change in staff within DRS, this has not been revisited in the current year. Revisiting this topic with new staff will further the connection between the two offices.
- **Start a private Facebook group for students with disabilities:** currently, there is no general club on campus for students with disabilities. However, as evidenced by the previous dissolution of the club for students with disabilities, there is interest on campus, but a void in leadership. Linking the club to the office will help to maintain the club even through shifting leadership.
- **Outreach to specific majors and minors:** A trend on campuses nationwide, and here at WWU is the emergence of academic spaces dedicated to social and social justice issues. If these specific groups are outreached to, specifically those which have emerged and been reshaped by the changing social justice dialogue, a great sample of the student body will become informed of the DOC's events and services. See below for a possible list.
 - o **American Cultural Studies**
 - o **Anthropology**
 - o **Art Education**
 - o **Art History**
 - o **Art Education**
 - o **Behavioral Neuroscience**
 - o **Communication Sciences and Disorders**
 - o **Community Health**
 - o **Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration**
 - o **History/Social Studies**
 - o **Human Services**
 - o **Music Education**
 - o **Recreation**
 - o **Special Education**

2. Perpetuate already in place resources and physical location to maintain accessibility through the planned A,S restructure

In a previous Assessment, it was found a move from VU 528 to VU 513 was necessary for the optimum accessibility of the DOC. As the AS goes through many changes, it must be remembered that the DOC must be actively made accessible. Additionally, in a previous budgeting cycle, the budget of the DOC was cut substantially. As the office is still relatively new, it must be allowed to work within a more stable budget for some time.