

To SUNY Cortland Faculty Senate:

The Kinesiology Department respectfully requests that additional information is provided regarding the email from the President's Office addressing Technology Accessibility dated January 29, 2018. As part of this email, the noncompliance of technology accessibility at SUNY Cortland, development and initiation of the Technology Accessibility Advisory Committee, and the responsibility of all members of the institution to comply with technology accessibility across all applications of technology were mentioned.

The faculty of the Kinesiology Department are concerned with the statement specific to the college's commitment to the remediation of digital content including all documents, resources, emails, web and social media content available. We would appreciate additional information as to how current faculty and staff are expected to assist with this remediation. Specifically we are requesting detailed information regarding the following areas:

Transparency

The Kinesiology Department requests additional transparency in regards to the areas found to be non-compliant at SUNY Cortland, including the website and all content or applications.

We also request more information as to what steps have been taken during the Fall to ensure compliance and what types of continuing remediation are still needed regarding all digital content.

Additionally, we request details on what requirements must be adhered to when purchasing or selecting any new software applications that may be used in an educational setting at SUNY Cortland. Does this include any or all software that is used as part of courses taught by our department?

The concern of the Kinesiology Department faculty is that all or a significant portion of previous, current, and future teaching lectures, supplemental material, and content associated with courses and communications with students will have to be restructured to comply with the technology accessibility requirements.

Resource Availability

The Kinesiology Department also requests the following information regarding current and future resource availability:

1. What resources are currently available to address technology accessibility?
2. Who is the appropriate point of contact for faculty to speak with to learn more about what specific remediation is necessary and who can assist with these changes?

3. What additional resources are currently available, will be developed, and/or provided to faculty and staff to implement these changes?
4. How will these potential resources or information about these resources be disseminated to all members of the college?
5. In the event that the majority of these responsibilities fall on the individual faculty member, what resources will be available to compensate faculty for the additional time and effort to adhere to and comply with these standards?
6. Are any university-wide educational or training sessions being prepared for a uniformed and consistent transition to ensure compliance with all requirements?

The concern of the Kinesiology Department faculty is that these expectations are going to be placed at the level of the individual faculty member to ensure all materials for their classes are in compliance with the technology accessibility requirements without proper staff and/or resources to help provide guidance, training, information or assistance to help with the transition.

Responsibilities

The department also requests a more detailed description of the responsibilities of members across campus during this transition. This includes the roles and responsibilities of each of the following:

1. Student tutors, Lab Instructors and Teaching Assistants
2. Faculty and Staff
3. Individual Departments
4. Services on campus (e.g. Technology and Test Administration Services, etc.)
5. Offices on campus (e.g. Disability Resources Office, etc.)
6. Committees on Campus (e.g. Technology Accessibility Advisory Committee, etc.)
7. Administration

Timeline

Lastly, the Kinesiology Department requests a reasonable timeline be established by the university for the transition of materials for compliance with the technology accessibility requirements.

The concern of the faculty is that an unsupported and immediate mandate for the implementation of compliance with the technology accessibility requirements, accompanied with the concurrent emphasis on updating and transitioning all Student Learning Objectives, will severely limit or impede the ability of faculty to focus on the areas they are directly evaluated. Time spent on these other activities may negatively influence teaching effectiveness, time available to devote to scholarship, advising, and service commitments. Detracting from these non-negotiable efforts can potentially impact future reappointment, promotion and tenure

reviews. Thus, this transition may disproportionately impact junior faculty who are striving to retain employment and earn advancement.

The Kinesiology Department respectfully requests this information so that we can work together with the college to ensure that all students have accessibility to course materials during their experience at SUNY Cortland. We wish to offer our support to the administration in this endeavor and look forward to assisting with the transition and helping the college achieve compliance.

Sincerely,

The Kinesiology Department