

ADA Committee Minutes for 12/12/06

In attendance: Don Wnkie, Tim Kissock, Craig Darrough, Marilyn Finney, Morgan Nolan, Michael Ritter, Cori Criger, Ron Olinger, Ellen Kisker, Michelle Ritter

Ellen went over the highlights of the minutes from our last meeting.

Don Winkie discussed new technologies that will allow students to more readily have access to printed materials in a digital format. Don also discussed his long range plans for equipment upgrades and software license renewals.

Craig Darrough raised the concern regarding flotation devices for students with disabilities using the swimming pool. Mike stated that he would research companies who provide such products.

Ellen discussed the need for having a current accessibility survey completed by an outside source. Mike stated that the ADA/IT center in Columbia would be a good source for hiring accessibility consultants. He has been in contact with Jim DeJong, the center's director, and will be requesting a formal itemized estimate soon.

Ellen also suggested that Judy Grimes had recommended that the committee devise something like a strategic plan for accessibility. Mike stated that the accessibility surveys would generate a list of priorities for our campus.

Ron Olinger suggested that we also share our concerns with the Facilities and Grounds committee and that there would be opportunities to apply for SPIF funds to pay for the consultants as well as actual accessibility improvement projects. It was suggested that the ADA committee could request to have a permanent seat on the Facilities and Grounds Committee. Ellen and Mike will check into this further.

Mike raised the issue of fire safety and evacuation procedures for the Fulkerson Center. The concern is that there is only one accessible exit. It was decided that people with disabilities could wait at the top of the stairs for help to arrive.

Mike stated that there was an oversight when the Fulkerson Center was designed without an accessible **main** entrance. Ron stated that there was no money allocated for the creation of an accessible entrance. Mike asked if there was a way to work with the Foundation in an attempt to explain accessibility concerns and to ask that additional funding be requested and earmarked to ensure that all new facilities are fully accessible. Ron stated that this would be a good idea. It was suggested that someone from the committee should draft a proposal and share it with Dan Nicoson and/or Jerry Pickman.

Cori Criger discussed the issues related to the Clicker technologies. The concern is that the companies who manufacture the Clicker have not addressed accessibility features for

students who need extended time and more significantly, for people with visual or motor dexterity limitations.

Mike asked for the committee's input regarding the installation of an automatic door to the Registrar's suite. The committee agreed that both the Admissions and Registrar's suites could benefit from the addition of an automatic door. Mike will schedule this with Brian Harrah and Gene Eulinger so as to not disrupt the flow of student traffic during peak registration times. The committee noted that Financial Aid does a good job of always keeping their door open which incidentally improves accessibility.

Ellen commented that she and Mike had talked to Bill Church regarding his experiences with using a wheelchair following an injury early in the fall semester. One of Bill's chief concerns was the lack of an accessible restroom in Eder Hall. The question was raised as to whether the entrance door could be removed. Ron and Tim will look into the legality of removing the door. Another concern is the placement of the towel dispensers which block access to the accessible sink. Craig Darrough suggested that this could be rectified with a simple work order. Mike will follow up on this. (Note: Ellen and Mike also spoke with Jeanne Daffron recently about her experiences using a wheelchair during the fall semester. She concurred with Bill Church's comments regarding restroom accessibility citing specifically the restrooms in Popplewell Hall.)

Mike raised the concern about the bus stop in front of Popplewell Hall. The bus stop on the south side of Downs Drive is inaccessible and unsafe for students. In addition, Mike had talked to a student who stated that, if the bus driver determined that Downs Drive was to slick due to snow and ice, that the bus would not enter our campus and that she would have to roll herself out of Downs Drive, across Mitchell Avenue and into the BSU parking lot. Tim Kissock stated that he would contact the bus company regarding these policies.