

## ADA Committee

October 21, 2005

### Minutes

In attendance: Craig Darrough, Tom Wilson, Jeff Knapp, Jennifer Koebel, Tierha Jones, Dennis Johnson, Marilyn Finney, Tim Kissock, Bobbie Delaney, Michelle Ritter, Dr. Paul Shang, Michael Ritter, Ellen Kisker

- Ellen read the minutes from the April meeting
- The question was raised as to whether MWSU takes a proactive approach to helping students with disabilities obtain on-campus employment. It was suggested that on-campus employment often provides the opportunity for students to become acclimated to the world of work. This is particularly important for students with disabilities who will one day need to discuss accommodations with their employers.
  - As a result of working on the Career Development/Disability Services grant: 1) Michael will be introducing new students to Linda during their initial contact 2) Michael will create a visible link between the Disability Services and Career Services web sites and 3) Michael will distribute Career Services brochures and flyers to the students he serves.
- A follow-up question was raised as to whether Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation would support the idea of encouraging their consumers to work while they attend college. Tom Wilson (MOVR) suggested that for some students with disabilities, working 20-30 hours may be acceptable. This would have to be determined on a case by case basis.
- It was suggested that Disability Services and Student Employment create and host a workshop for V.R. and their student consumers regarding the pros and cons of on-campus employment.
  - A meeting between V.R., Student Employment, and Disability Services will be arranged in February.
- Safety issues as well as accessibility issues were raised regarding the parking lot on the west side of the Hearn Center. It was suggested that the committee work with Dr. Varma and the Safety Committee to draw up plans and a proposal to rectify the problems. The problems include: 1) a lack of “reserved accessible” parking spaces for staff and 2) the mix of big delivery trucks, people with physical disabilities, and a very cramped space creating a very hazardous environment. It was recommended that we work with someone in campus printing to create an artistic rendering of our proposed changes to the parking lot. It was also recommended that we take photographs of the issues so that everyone can get a real sense of the points of concern.
- The new sidewalk that surrounds the campus was discussed from the perspective of accessibility. The question was raised as to why the sidewalk was constructed in an unsafe and inaccessible manner. Students and visitors with mobility

- impairments have remarked that the cross slope of the new sidewalk is too steep (the ADA/IT Center in Columbia explained that the cross slope of a sidewalk is not to exceed a 2% gradient. They further explained that all new construction (where it is feasible) is required to meet this standard. The committee was concerned that MWSU did not meet even the minimum ADAAG (Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines) requirements.
- Jeff Knapp, V.P. for SGA suggested that he would like to rally the support of the S.G.A. as well as the entire student body regarding accessibility issues on our campus.
  - Michael discussed that he has 120 students currently accessing the Disability Services office. Don Winkie reported that he has approximately 35 students currently utilizing the adaptive equipment. Don reported that he is now a member of the computer access committee. He further reported on all of his new computers and software upgrades.
  - It was suggested that we increase awareness of the Adaptive Equipment lab by creating a brochure to be distributed to the VIP's in Admissions.
    - An updated brochure will be developed this semester.
  - Tierha discussed her upcoming presentation on Lupus.
  - Jenni discussed her upcoming presentation on disability awareness.
  - The status of the resting benches was discussed.
    - All 3 have been delivered to West Campus. One has been installed near the front entrance to Eder Hall. The remaining 2 will be installed during such a time that there is already a concrete truck on campus for other projects.
    - West Campus is looking into having someone donate the concrete for this project.
  - Regarding which ADAAG survey to use, Marilyn suggested that a college campus is a place of public accommodation and that we should use the related survey.
    - Brandon Neal (HPER) has volunteered the services of his students to assist with the surveys.
    - Individual buildings will be surveyed by the end of July 06.
  - It was discussed that we need to adhere to the campus transition plan and get the campus accessibility surveys completed.
  - Craig asked if Ellen or Michael had heard of any concerns by our students following the recent violent crimes and the most recent Clery warning. No concerns had been reported at the time of the meeting.

It was agreed that we would not have another meeting until the end of January.

The following is a list of highlights from our previous meeting in April:

- Updates were discussed regarding the Career Development/Disability Services Grant with Tom McVeigh and Mark Ohrenberg from UMKC

- Campus accessibility surveys were discussed again. Marilyn, Michael, Rick, and Michelle have agreed to assist with the surveys.
- Julia Schneider discussed the installation of a new library elevator call button.
- Safety and accessibility concerns were raised regarding the loading dock/ “accessible” parking lot west of the Hearn Center. This has been an unaddressed and ongoing problem for the past 3.5 years
- The purchase and placement of 3 resting benches was discussed. 1 bench has been installed and the other 2 are pending
- Don Winkie reported on his need for software updates and new A/T equipment. (Completed)