

ADA Committee

March 24, 2005

Minutes

Members: Jennifer Koebel, Don Winkie, Michelle Ritter, Marilyn Finney, Martha Ellison, Brian Harrah, Jon Kelley, Michael Ritter, Tom Wilson, Rick Gilmore, Dave Tushaus, Tierha Jones, Michael Speros, Julia Schneider, Mark Mabe, Wonda Berry-Howe, Kevin Novinger, Cori Criger, Ellen Kisker

At the opening of the meeting, it was agreed that the committee would be submitting a hard copy of critical ADA related issues to Dr. Scanlon and Dr. Arnold.

Michael Ritter reported on the Career Development Grant for students with disabilities. Over 400 surveys were mailed out to both current and former students regarding their satisfaction with career planning and related services. The deadline for returning surveys is Friday April 1st. The data will be evaluated and quantified by Tom McVeigh and Rob Hoffman from UMKC. Follow up focus groups will be held on campus April 19th.

Ellen Kisker discussed the need for an updated campus accessibility survey. She mentioned that the cost of such a survey could be as much as \$10,000.00. Marilyn Finney offered her expertise in this area. Michael also has some experience with accessibility surveys. It was discussed that several of the committee members could do the surveys over the summer months. It was also mentioned that this would be a great project for engineering students. We will contact Dr. Varma to discuss this proposal.

Students Roberta Starmer and Ed Harris discussed issues related to a lack of adequate accessible parking. The main concern was that there are not enough accessible parking spaces for Eder Hall. It was also suggested that non-disabled students are misusing the accessible spaces by borrowing a disabled parking hang tag from a relative with a disability. This in turn forces students with legitimate disabilities to park illegally to gain access to Eder Hall. This has resulted in parking tickets in the past. Ed offered his experience in the construction field to draw up proposed changes to the parking lot which would add several more accessible spaces.

Roberta and Ed also mentioned that resting benches located in between buildings and parking lots would benefit many students with disabilities. We will discuss this with the Campus Beautification Committee.

Ellen mentioned that a call button is going to be installed near the elevator on the first floor of the Hearnes Center. This will eliminate the necessity of the ability to use a telephone to call for the elevator. This should make it much easier to access the elevator for people with physical disabilities. It was also mentioned that a lowered checkout counter has been added to the main floor of the library as part of the remodeling project. This will allow students who use wheelchairs and scooters ease of access when checking out materials. As part of the library discussion, the overall lack of accessibility to the Hearnes Center and Eder Hall was discussed. A lack of accessible parking and inaccessible sidewalks are the primary concerns. A detailed drawing of these issues will be sent to Dr. Scanlon, Dr. Arnold, and Ron Olinger.

- It was mentioned that the sidewalk behind Eder Hall is inaccessible because it is too steep.
- It was also noted that a local dignitary was not able to attend the signing of the University bill by Governor Blunt because there is no accessible parking near the Kemper Recital Hall. This same person was also unable to attend the grand opening of the Fulkerson Center because of accessibility issues. This will be an ongoing issue for the Leah Spratt Hall in particular.
- It was discussed that we should invite Dr. Scanlon and others to participate in a Campus Accessibility Awareness event.
- An issue was raised regarding inadequate lighting behind the cafeteria where the cafeteria driveway and Downs Drive intersect. There has been one reported pedestrian accident at this intersection due to poor lighting.
- It was reported that the back door to the Fulkerson Center will need to be propped open at all times because: 1) this is the only accessible entrance and 2) there is no automatic door at this location. This issue has been discussed with Julie Fiedler and Dan Nicosen.
- It was recommended that at least one member of the MWSC ADA Committee be directly involved with the design and construction of new facilities as well as the remodeling of old structures.
- **GOOD NEWS!!!** Thanks to Brian Harrah, there is finally an interior automatic door on the campus side of Blum Union. The ADA committee has been trying for years to get this accomplished and it finally happened. There had previously been an understanding that the door would be propped open in lieu of an automatic door. However, upon periodic inspections of the door and from personal accounts from students, this door was rarely propped open. This arrangement never works adequately. Now students have easy access to the center of campus from inside Blum Union. Thanks Brian.

- It was noted that the accessible parking at the new Fulkerson Center will not be adequate when community events are held in this facility. It will be necessary to add accessible parking near the south entrance of Leah Spratt Hall. This parking would also service the Kemper Recital Hall.

The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting was scheduled for 4/21/05 at 3:00pm in Eder Hall room 208.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Ritter 3/30/2005