

MWSU
A.D.A. Committee
minutes for 10/17/2006

Ellen opened the meeting.

- Mike discussed the importance of adding more resting benches to our campus. The resting benches will provide a *halfway point* between buildings so that students with medical conditions and disabilities have a place to stop and rest if necessary.
- Mike discussed the ongoing concerns regarding insufficient accessible parking (formerly known as *handicap parking*) for students, staff, faculty, and visitors with disabilities. Mike mentioned that the top priority for increasing accessible parking would be the lot in front of Eder Hall because it serves several buildings and is connected to a main artery of the campus.

Bob Bidding discussed parking from the standpoint of safety, aesthetics, and overall usability. He suggested we work with an architect to completely redesign the parking lots which currently serve Popplewell, Eder, and Hearnese.

Ellen raised the point of having an ADA committee representative on the parking committee.

The group also discussed the possibility of taking our concerns to the faculty senate.

- Dave Tushaus raised the issue of classroom occupancy as it relates to student safety and accessibility. Dave stated that there is currently a push to maximize the number of students in each classroom rather than creating additional sections of the same class.

Mike stated that he and Ellen had discussed this with Craig Darrough. Craig stated that the A.D.A. does not impose any guidelines which limit the number of students in a classroom but the fire inspector most definitely has concerns about maximum occupancy. Ellen also stated that she and Mike had discussed this issue with Michael Tiffany from OCR (Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights) and he was also unaware of any regulations regarding maximum classroom occupancy.

Dave asked if the maximum occupancy number increases as square footage increases. Michael stated that he would check with Craig Darrough and then would report back to the committee.

Nanette Wolford added that there is plenty of research showing that after classroom occupancy reaches 25, learning decreases.

Dave questioned the point at which overcrowding in a classroom becomes problematic. He asked if there is a standard for the number of students per square foot in a given classroom. Mike stated that he was not aware of any standard.

- Mike reported that he is currently working with 47 students on a regular basis.
- Don Winkie reported that he is working with several students this semester on how to use adaptive technologies. Don also reported on his software upgrades and renewed licensing agreements. Don attended a conference on Daisy technology and explained that it is now possible to scan a textbook into the system, record it onto an Mp3, and then use the Mp3 for playback.
- Nanette commented that the pool lift was being used on a regular basis and has greatly improved pool accessibility for faculty, staff, students, and visitors. She also commented that the new pool steps are much safer than the steps they replaced.

It was decided that the committee would meet on November 28 at 3p.m. in Eder Hall, room 208.

The committee will not be meeting in December due to Christmas break but will reconvene in January of '07.