Report on Access for Persons with Disabilities

Campus Assembly Update

November 15, 2002

The Committee on Access for Persons with Disabilities meets November 20th at 3:00 in SCC 131. Committee members include: Paul Holm, Marsha Odom, Ken Myers, Les Johnson, David Crawford, Dan Neumann, Gary Willhite, Kent Freberg, Owen Williams, Stacey Grunewald, Jesse Anderson, Michael Harmon and Laurie Wilson. Please forward access questions, concerns, needs to any member of this group for discussion at the meeting.

Proposed agenda items at this time include: 1) progress on implementation of the U of M Accessibility of Information Technology Policy 2) recent disability access upgrades 3) U Senate Committee Report on Disability Issues 4) UMC transportation options for students with disabilities 5) planning for campus access during the demolition and construction of Bede 6) distance learning initiatives related to accessibility

Upcoming Activity Related to Disability Issues:
Depression Awareness / Suicide Prevention training opportunities on November 21 from 1:00 to 3:00 for faculty and staff in CC A&B, and 3:00 for students in CC A&B. Presenters: Don Christie and Mike Anderson from NW Mental Health. Sponsored by the Suicide Prevention Planning committee in conjunction with a campus review of services and protocol in this area.

Disability access related activities completed during fall semester: 1) shared training on ADD/ADHD with University of North Dakota Disability Services Staff 2) video and discussion opportunity related to ADD/ADHD on UMC campus 3) distribution of advising guidelines for students with Attention Deficit Disorder to UMC Faculty Assembly 4) addition of representatives from UND Disability Services, MN. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and a student with a disability to C&CS PIAC group 5) presentation at the TRIO ASPIRE conference on "Demystifying Reasonable Accommodation" 6) acquisition by the UMC Library of an excellent video on the "Treatment of Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder" 7) acquisition of
upgraded voice input technology for a student and availability of improved scanning capability in Owen 270

**Recent disability access upgrades:** 1) Kiehle! UMC finally has a facility that is available to persons in the region who use wheelchairs or have other conditions which restrict mobility. Kiehle has an elevator, choice of seating, accessible signage, accessible restrooms and an audio assist system for persons with hearing impairments.

**Thank you to Ken Myers,** UMC's representative to the U Senate Committee on Disability Issues who always arranges for conference call participation at these meetings. UMC is usually the only coordinate campus with regular representation on the committee.

**Notes to faculty:** 1) When textbook selections are made, if there is an option to choose a text with an e-text version available it can save several hundred dollars of the disability services budget. Gradually, textbook publishers are becoming more responsive to such requests, and they benefit students with a variety of disability issues. However, not all CD-ROM based course disks are accessible to our students who use screen readers. If you are thinking of ordering a text with such a disk available, one of our students will be happy to check it out with you.

2) Watch for news from Georgia Tech and the Center for Distance Learning and the Center for Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. Georgia Tech has received federal grant funds to improve distance education practices nationwide.

3) Thanks to all UMC faculty and staff for their continued support and assistance with improving accessibility on our campus.

"You can't build a ramp to a closed mind."