Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed.

Upcoming satellite downlink: **Untangling the Web: Making On-Line Learning Accessible**, April 22, 1:30-3:00, SCC A. Students as well as faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.

Ken Myers reported on the TC Disability Issues meeting from January 28, 04. Main items of discussion included: 1) the need for ASL backup for students with cochlear implants since the implants often work intermittently, 2) it is likely that an academic minor in Disability Studies will be offered as early as Fall 05. TC campus is considering offering it system-wide. 3) TC needs assessment indicated reducing student isolation, improving communication, and access to resources were priorities. There is a tendency to continually talk about needs, but it is much more difficult to know best how to meet the needs. 4) Demand for testing accommodations on the TC campus is significantly increasing. There are problems with adequate space and personnel to administer exams. 5) Discussions on TC building accessibility continued.

Kent Freberg offered an update on accessibility during the new student center construction. Available routes are much improved over what was anticipated. People will have access through the Atrium and use of existing sidewalks for several more months than initially expected. Two handicapped parking sites have been relocated to the east side of Owen for a total of three sites at that alternate entrance. Facilities will be doing some work to improve the paved areas at that site once spring arrives.

Kent also explained the change in recommendations related to the Dowell elevator as outlined in the ADA Summary document included with today’s agenda.

Stacey Grunewald in Student Health provided a summary of prevention programs recently offered on campus as well as those scheduled for the next several months. Student Health recently offered: diabetic and cholesterol screening, and is organizing programs on Women’s Cardiac Health (March 30) in recognition of Women’s History Month, and a program on eating disorders for April 14. Additionally, the Clothesline Project returns to campus for the first week of April. This display features items of clothing such as t-shirts or baby gowns with artistic messages in remembrance of victims of domestic violence in Minnesota. Coinciding with that display, it is hoped that we can sponsor a local panel to address the topic of domestic violence. Stacey indicated that several staff will receive training related to tobacco use at a forum in Bemidji in the near
future. Wellness surveys distributed from the TC campus will be sent to all UMC faculty and staff this spring. New wellness walking trail information will be distributed at the same time. Stacey encouraged people to document their concerns about smoking near entrances since that is the only way that recommendations for policy changes will come forward. Thanks to Stacey for her ongoing work with prevention.

Dina van Dorsten and Chris Valeske reported that overall campus access seems fairly good right now despite the season and the construction project underway. Dina did indicate that groups of smokers gathered at entrances do create problems for those persons with respiratory problems. It was noted that some campuses and public buildings require that smoking occur at least 50’ from building entrances. Ken Myers also noted difficulty passing through entrance areas where many smokers gather.

Wilson reported that she and Fran Chihanski intend to implement firmer guidelines on when currently enrolled students can request alternative format materials. Presently, despite multiple announcements, emails, and personal contacts, too many currently enrolled students are waiting until the last minute to request electronic format materials or taped materials for their courses. This results in poor service, late services and frustration from faculty who assume that there issues have been taken care of much earlier. Wilson and Chihanski will devise a notification system that requires currently enrolled students indicate whether or not they will be requesting materials, identify preferences for formats, and provide a class list that must be turned in no later than the last day of the semester. Currently enrolled students who do not do this will need to arrange for their own texts. Newly enrolled students will continue to be served as soon as they make themselves known to the Office for Students with Disabilities. The purpose of this action is to promote greater personal accountability among students as well as greater recognition that their unnecessary procrastination negatively impacts many other offices and individuals.

Ken Myers and Stacey Grunewald suggested that we inquire with Jeff Sperling regarding the possibility of being able to make this request known at the time of web registration. Wilson will check into this possibility.

Housing requests for accessible housing should be sent to Residential Life no later than April 30 for priority placement.

Wilson is to publicize in the Eagle Eye that Dina van Dorsten and Chris Valeske are student reps to this committee, and can be a resource to students.

Meeting adjourned.

L. Wilson, recorder