

**Disabilities Issues Committee
Monday, December 6, 1999
Regents Room
9.00 AM**

MINUTES

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view, nor are they binding on the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

MINUTES

[In these minutes: umbrella committee discussion, universal design, information technology guidelines]

PRESENT: James Carey (chair), Deborah Brown, Harvey Carlson, William Durfee, Dave Fuecker, Lucinda Hall, Paula Knutzen, Barbara Leonard, Elizabeth Lightfoot, Virgil Mathiowetz, Ken Myers, Julie Sweitzer, Kimerly Wilcox, David Wuolu

REGRETS: Suann Mitchell, Amanda Perlman, Joe Reichle, Jessica Voigts

GUESTS: Gene Chelberg, Susan Lasoff

OTHERS: NONE

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED SENATE UMBRELLA COMMITTEE

The committee spent the first hour of their meeting discussing the proposed umbrella committee concept with members of the Senate Equal Employment Opportunity for Women Committee and Diversity Discussion Group. Details can be found under separate cover.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN DISCUSSION

Gene Chelberg, Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services within Disability Services, began the Universal Design (UD) discussion by noting the following:

- Disability Services wants to create an environment at the University that allows those with disabilities to access all areas and gain success.

- Currently, there are guidelines, laws, and codes issued by the ADA for construction projects, but UD goes beyond those.

Susan Lasoff presented the major concepts of UD to the committee:

- Ron Mace developed UD, which is "the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design."
- Slides providing examples of the seven principals that make up UD were presented. The seven principals are:
 1. Equitable Use: The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
 2. Flexibility in Use: The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
 3. Simple and Intuitive Use: Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
 4. Perceptible Information: The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
 5. Tolerance of Error: The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
 6. Low Physical Effort: The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
 7. Size and Space for Approach and Use: Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

Comments:

- With there being so many different types of disabilities, not all can be accommodated with one design.
- Departments are able to install new office furniture without having to follow ADA regulations, but Disability Services is willing to go to individual departments to review their designs for compliance.
- New signage that is now available is called a lighthouse structure; where there is a picture, words, and raised lettering on a ledge. Some signs also include voice-recorded messages.
- US West has designed a unifone that is available for the same cost as a regular phone through Networking and Telecommunications.
- Any project that entails major renovations or construction should automatically receive input on compliance with UD principals.
- Disability Services has been working with the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture to make sure that instructors incorporate UD into their classes.
- The committee should review the process for going about conducting major renovations or construction at the University.
- The cost of projects could be the trigger for UD consideration, which may help to create a preventative, rather than a reactive, process.

- Julie Sweitzer is proposing that renovation/construction proposals include UD in the first page of the mission on the bid.
- Parking for the disabled should be considered throughout the development of all projects.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GUIDELINES

Gene Chelberg reported the following about Information Technology guidelines to the committee:

- Disability Services and Information Technology are working together to create guidelines for making technology systems accessible for individuals with disabilities.
- The goal is to develop guidelines that are not so overwhelming that they will be disregarded due to their difficulty of implementation.
- It would be beneficial to meet with the committee once the guidelines have been outlined to receive feedback on them.

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED SENATE UMBRELLA COMMITTEE

The committee made more comments about the proposed umbrella committee structure:

- The umbrella committee structure should include specified subcommittees and members would then be appointed to the subcommittees and come together to form the umbrella committee.
- Whatever structure is developed must have a way to maintain all constituencies and hold the most clout.
- Subcommittees should still have a direct line to the Senate so issues are not killed at the umbrella committee level.
- Creating subcommittees that consider issues instead of representing constituencies would be difficult to achieve under the proposed charge.
- Any other concerns should be submitted to Professor Carey so he can draft a letter for the committee's review. The letter, which outlines the committee's view of the proposed umbrella committee, will then be forwarded to the Diversity Discussion Group.

ADJOURNMENT

Professor Carey adjourned the meeting at 11:10 AM.