

Commission on Disabilities

Annual Report for 2011-2012

Prepared and submitted on May 15, 2012 by Beth Esselstrom, Chair

The Commission held 7 meetings this year:

October 6, 2011

November 3, 2011

December 1, 2011

February 2, 2012

March 6, 2012

April 5, 2012

May 3, 2012

Major Activities

We co-sponsored the Recognition Reception for the Office of Disability Resources and the Office of Cultural Diversity-- an end of the year event that acknowledges graduates and student leaders, held on April 25. ADA event in the fall?

Our major accomplishment this year was the completion of two Access Walks. These occurred March 28 and April 11 and covered the interior of the campus. We have the following recommendations based on our observations from these walks:

Immediate (by June 30, 2012):

- 1) Merchandise displays in the UMD Stores and Tweed Museum stores should be adjusted to allow for wheelchair access throughout (36" pathway (227 Sales and Service / 403 Walking Surfaces) and 5' turn around at the end of dead end aisles (304 Turning Space)). For the most part, this involves the moving or removal of carousels, tables, and the like to provide access.
- 2) The floor seam between the Library Annex and Library buildings (gold metal) is raised and should be corrected. (303 Changes in Level - Upto ¼" is allowed, upto ½" if beveled @ 1:2)
- 3) The door jamb lip below the doors between the School of Med and Chem (nearest School of Med) needs adjustment. (303 Changes in Level)
- 4) The floor seam between the School of Med and MWAH is uneven and needs adjustment. (303 Changes in Level)

- 5) The entrance to the Dining Center should be redesigned to provide unimpeded access for wheelchairs (36" pathway) (227 Sales and Service / 403 Walking Surfaces) (403.5.2 Clear Width at Turn (48"))).
- 6) The chairs in front of the low counter area at TCF bank should be stacked and set aside for wheelchair access.
- 7) The floor seam between the Sophie concourse ramp and LSH may need to be adjusted. (303 Changes in Level)

Short-Range (by the start of Fall Semester 2012):

- 1) Each campus department should check service counter heights, doorway and pathway widths to confirm ADA compliance (we should make or find a simplified version of ADA because departments will not be able to find/know how to interpret the entire ADA) and budget for necessary changes for FY13. In particular, adjustments to Rec Sports Rec Addition could be made for wheelchair accessibility (1004 Exercise Machines and Equipment).
- 2) Campus custodians should participate in a briefing/training regarding placement of moveable items (garbage cans, seating, displays, etc) to allow for adequate and barrier-free access for individuals with sight impairments or who utilize assistive equipment. Attention to barriers to fire extinguishers, pull stations, AEDs, message boards and signs.
- 3) Hooks/shelves should be removed from the walls in BohH 90, LSci 175 and 185.
- 4) Assess all campus elevators for audible queues. (407.2.2.3 Audible Signals) All equipped with audible queue technology should be enabled to an ambient noise level above class-passing times.
- 5) Tread/stripping on stairs lacking any color differentiation should be added (504.4 Tread Surface (Advisory)) (e.g., LSBE, LSci 185, BohH 90, two staircases from LSH lobby down to Sophie concourse, Tweed).
- 6) Lighting should be added to the interior stairs in MPAC.
- 7) Mullion between double doors inside Darland main floor (near 123) should be removed.

Medium-Range (by the start of Fall Semester 2013):

- 1) Conduct a survey of all campus restrooms assess: accessible stall signage, accessible stall availability, height of toilet paper and towel dispensers (603 Toilet and Bathing Rooms / 604 Water Closets and Toilet Compartments / 605 Urinals / 606 Lavatories and Sinks 609 Grab Bars). This might be accomplished via a student employee position or internship in FM.
- 2) Conduct a survey of all campus fire alarm and fire extinguishers for height requirements and clearance (308 Reach Ranges). This might be accomplished via a student employee position or internship in FM.
- 3) Address protruding drinking fountains with installation of curtains or barriers (602 Drinking Fountains / 305 Clear Floor or Ground Space / 306 Knee and Toe Clearances / 307 Protruding Objects / 309 Operable Parts).

- 4) Conduct a survey of all campus elevators to assess visible signage. Signage should be added with priority on those elevators used most frequently by the public (e.g., SCC on first floor Kirby, LSH elevator from Sophie's concourse should be first).
- 5) MPAC ticket windows, Romano ticket windows and concessions, and Cashiers' windows and nearby counters should be adjusted to meet ADA code height. Northern Shores coffee shop should adjust or replace condiments stands for height to accommodate wheelchair access and renovate to provide wheelchair access throughout. (227 Sales and Service / 904 Check-Out Aisles and Sales and Service Counters)
- 6) Conduct a survey of all interior ramps and add railings to those lacking them (405 Ramps).
- 7) ADA seating should be added to MPAC and Romano. (221 Assembly Areas / 802 Wheelchair Spaces, Companion Seats, and Designated Aisle Seats)
- 8) Tweed should use larger font for exhibit labels/markers; consider Braille labels. (703 Signs)

Long-Range (2-5 years and beyond):

- 1) Restrooms in large new construction projects should be designed without doors. Restrooms in small and medium-sized new construction or renovation projects should be equipped with power assist doors.
- 2) Ramps in new construction or renovation projects should be code compliant.
- 3) Fire doors in new construction or renovation projects should be without mullions wherever possible.
- 4) Drinking fountains in new construction or renovation projects should be designed to provide both adequate wheelchair access as well as safety feature for sight impairment.
- 5) Stair material should be chosen with regard to safety for use with walking sticks and surface slipperiness (e.g., Swenson Science Building and Civil Engineering Building material are not the best choices).
- 6) Exits/entrances on lecture halls in new construction or renovation projects should be designed to minimize interior hallway chokepoints. Examples of current problem areas are Chem 200, SCC 120, and LSci 175 and 185.
- 7) Door knobs should be replaced by handles in renovation projects or as individual classroom or office doors are re-keyed.

Other activities and accomplishments

(To Be Listed)

Future Activities

1. Plan and implement, along with other groups, action steps outlined in the Tool for Achieving Change."
2. Continue to monitor accessibility on campus, including bathrooms, classrooms, food service, entryways, reception areas, etc.
3. Replace members whose terms have expired or who have resigned; expand the Commission membership to include representation from key campus units

4. Continue working with UMD Assistive Technology Team to improve learning for students with disabilities. This includes provision and maintenance of adaptive technology in classrooms, labs, and library, as well as faculty support and resources to utilize Universal Design for Learning.
5. Continue to monitor and address the campus climate as it relates to persons with disabilities.

Unisex Toilets – 213.2.1

Goal 2 Action Steps for 2011-2012

UCT: Commission on Disabilities

Commission's Second Goal (from "Tool" submitted May 2011):

Improve campus climate, including physical facilities, for all who study, work and visit the University

Action Steps:

- 1) Complete interior and exterior "Access Walks" around campus

Commission will sponsor and invite specific guests, including Campus Change Team, as well as campus community. Purpose of the walk will be to identify areas of campus presenting access barriers or challenges to individuals w/ disabilities.

Timeframe: complete access walks by early spring semester 2012

- 2) Develop a procedure for prioritizing annual HEPRA allocations and other resources for UMD building renovations and physical facility improvements that includes input from all constituents
- 3) Develop an outreach campaign regarding the availability of accommodations for students and staff, and the procedures for obtaining accommodations
- 4) Develop a campus visitor/guest portal for requesting accommodations—esp for identifying visitor parking information. Develop a communication plan; clarify accommodations statement requirements for web, printed materials

map available in July/2 *Interactive campus*

The Commission on Disabilities remains committed to pursuing additional goals and action steps outlined in the "Tool for Achieving Change" document submitted to the Campus Change Team in May 2011; however, timelines for these may need to be adjusted.

Commission On Disabilities

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