

**Disability Affairs Committee  
Annual Report  
2005-2006**

The Disability Affairs Committee met twice during the past school year. The focus of these meetings was to address the mission and goals of the committee for the next year. Committee members want to focus on ensuring the campus is accessible and that the needs of students, faculty, and visitors are being met. The committee also discussed ways of improving interactions between departments so that accessibility needs are met as quickly as possible.

Much of the efforts this year were spent on addressing accessibility concerns in the Jones Physical Science Building. One student wanted to enroll in the astronomy class but the lab area was not accessible for individuals who use wheel chairs. Meetings were held with Dr. Knapp, the course instructor, and facilities management with a classroom outside of the lab being identified as the most appropriate spot for an additional lab. No more complaints were received regarding this solution.

Another student who uses a wheelchair, enrolled in organic chemistry in the fall. The lab for this course was not accessible and several meetings were held with SC Vocational Rehabilitation, Dr. Handy, Dr. Knapp, and facilities management staff. Although a work around was found for the fall class, more planning was needed to address safety issues and accessibility for future students. Facilities management plans to install an accessible fume hood and sink in one of the labs and students needing access will be enrolled in a section that meets in this classroom. Work being conducted over the summer on the outside of the building will allow for an easier ramp entrance to the building.

During the coming year, the committee will look at assistive technology issues on campus and accessibility of other buildings on campus. The committee will also look for grant opportunities to assist faculty, staff and students.

Submitted by:

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