DISABILITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2002 – 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Deborah C. Haynes, Chair, Student Disability Services
Jeff Cargile, Human Resources
Donna Collins, Facilities Management
Jim Demarest, Facilities Management
Dr. Amy Donnelly, College of Education
Joe Fortune, University Housing
Bobby Gist, Equal Opportunity Programs
Derrick Huggins, Parking
Katie McLendon, Student Representative
Shealy McCoy, Risk Management
Mike Reed, Student Representative
Jacob Rivers, Veteran Services
Daphne Sipes, General Counsel
Dr. Linda Walling, Library and Information Science

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Disability Affairs Committee met three times during the 2002 – 2003 academic year. The committee addressed the following issues: 1) accessibility problems in some USC buildings; 2) curb cuts and other accessibility problems with sidewalks around campus; and 3) how to make faculty, staff, and students more aware of the services provided by the Office of Student Disability Services.

Accessibility to buildings continues to be an issue for the committee. The problems with the Blatt PE Center and the Swearingen Building which were addressed by the committee during the previous year were resolved. However, other buildings with high student use still have accessibility problems. One of these is the Russell House Student Union Building. Specifically, the entrance to the Russell House from the Patio area is not accessible. This issue was discussed with the project manager for the renovation of the Russell House and will be addressed in the design of the future space.

In addition to accessibility to buildings, persons who use wheelchairs also have problems navigating around campus. One problem involves either the lack of or the placement of curb cuts. Because most of the problems involve city streets, two of the committee members will survey the campus to determine where the problems are and then work with city and University officials to resolve them. Another problem getting around campus involves University and construction vehicles blocking sidewalks and curb cuts. One of the committee members from Facilities Management recommended that Student Disability Services be added to the checklist of departments that are contacted when construction or renovations are done.

The committee also discussed ways to make the faculty, staff, and students more aware of the services provided by the Office of Student Disability Services. Suggestions included putting an interest article in The Gamecock as well as having the Director of Student Disability Services become a part of the orientation program for new faculty members. The committee also reviewed the office’s website and brochure and found both helpful and informative.