

MEMO

TO: Chancellor Donna Shalala
Dean Mary Rouse

FROM: Marcia Carlson M ✓

SUBJECT: Disabled Access on Campus

Enclosed is a copy of my report on the survey I conducted of campus buildings. There are a few things you should be aware of:

Campus accessibility is worse than anticipated. My researchers and I found only about 25% of the buildings and 10% of the rest rooms were accessible. One of the most prevalent causes of inaccessibility is the placement of trash cans, ash trays, recycle boxes, cots, and the campus newspapers; the location of these items precludes the use of many of the campus buildings. For example, these items block the elevator call button and rest room entrances. It is my understanding that there is no real, cohesive training period regarding disability issues for the maintenance staff and that there is a considerable amount of turnover among the janitorial workers. I hope that I will be able to help Frank Rice of Buildings and Grounds work this issue out; Frank has indicated he wishes to hire me as a consultant in correcting this and many of the other difficulties we found. Until the electrical system of Van Hise Hall's elevators is replaced, this building is neither accessible nor safe for physically limited students; consequently, these students will have great difficulty in fulfilling the foreign language requirement.

On a positive note, Planning and Construction is attempting to get state monies to rectify the more costly problems and Buildings and Grounds is working on the little things with the hope that most of these little things will be corrected by the fall semester.

As part of the survey, we informally interviewed many disabled students and staff. The conclusion we had to draw was until there is a strong statement of commitment to disability issues from UW - Madison administration, the rights of the disabled person on this campus will not be taken seriously by the rest of the university community. We would like to see as much energy addressing disabled issues as is used in addressing racial issues.

cc Jim Roeber