

Standing Committee Annual Report
Committee for Persons with Disabilities
Dr. Roy L. Baker, Chair
Assistant Professor of Management

Meeting Dates for Current Fiscal Year 2004-2005

November 4, 2004
December 9, 2004
February 24, 2005
March 17, 2005
April 7, 2005.

Major Actions and/or Accomplishments:

- Installation of power assisted door openers on campus buildings to include both academic and residential buildings. The committee should also note that the new openers are “technically advanced” over the original openers that were to be ordered. The committee also wants to recognize that Ben Pratt from the Physical Plant saved Austin Peay approximately \$13,000.00 on the new openers through some very astute negotiations.
- The committee through out the year dealt frequently with communication issues between the committee, the university, and student constitutes. It was decided to send summaries of the committee meetings to the Office of Disabilities Services who would then post in their monthly information letter titled “The Advocate.” It is expected that this action will provide students with a summary of current activities and keep them informed on issues that may be important.
- In 1995 Law Engineering Inc. conducted a comprehensive detailed assessment of Austin Peay campus that outlined deficiencies in facilities related to American with Disabilities Act compliance. However many of these issues have been addressed there remain unfinished projects in some areas on campus. The committee has asked Ben Pratt to conduct another survey this summer and bring back the findings to the committee. Once the committee has received the findings the committee in the next academic year (2005-2006) will compose a priority list and address outstanding issues.
- Beulah Oldham from The Office of Disability Services reported to the committee that there are no clear protocols or evacuation plans in place for evacuation of disabled students or staff in case of an electrical failure, inclement weather conditions, or other unusual circumstances. The committee has begun research on Emergency Evacuation Chairs as well as addressing policy issues in the next academic year.
- The issue of the duties and responsibilities of “Building Coordinators” remains vague. By vague we mean how the building coordinator is identified in each building, what responsibilities and duties are connected to this position, and how students or staff can report problematic issues to the coordinator. It was discussed in several meetings and suggested that a training program or information bulletin be prepared for building coordinators to make them aware of issues related to students and staff who have disabilities. It is hoped that when a policy related to

emergency evacuation is formulated that this may address some of the “vague issues.”

- Vertical lifts continue to be problematic for some students who are unable at times to find the key that operates each lift. After discussion with Ben Pratt and representatives from the Office of Disability Services a motion was passed that “vertical lift keys” would be provided to students who needed access to these lifts. Each student needing a key would be verified by the Office of Disability Services. In addition, each student issued a key would be required to pay a key deposit which will be refunded upon key return. Ben Pratt and Beulah Oldham will coordinate this procedure.
- The elevator in the Claxton Building remains problematic. At times individuals have become “stuck” in this elevator due to mechanical failure. Ben Pratt continues to have discussions with elevator maintenance contractors. As a result of some persuasive “arm twisting” by Ben Pratt, all elevators located in campus buildings will be given a complete mechanical diagnostic check during the summer. This will be done at no cost to Austin Peay.
- The Committee for Persons with Disabilities will carry approximately \$ 33,000.00 into the budget for 2005-2006.