

Building Community Committee Meeting Notes for April 10, 2008

Committee Members Present: Adams, Cordova, Davis, Latta, Li, Needham, Parson, Skaugset, Som

Others: Roger Admiral

1) **Handicapped access to Peavy and Richardson Halls** – Roger joined the group to discuss the recent review of ADA access in COF (see “Recommendations for Improving ADA Access in Peavy and Richardson Halls”). A number of recommendations for access improvements are included in the report, the most immediate being better signage directing visitors to ADA accessible doors and installing an automated door at the basement (South) entrance to Peavy which is closest to handicapped parking. Roger agreed to prepare a brief “action plan” for implementing improvements. Mark Needham and Janey Parson agreed to help in this effort. The target date for a draft plan is May 1, 2008. Thanks to Mark for setting up the review.

2) **Policy statement on committee makeup in the COF** – Tom led a discussion on the draft policy statement (see Guidelines for committee makeup in the College of Forestry) prepared by Tom and Nick. The committee accepted the statement as written. Tom will go to the FEC to discuss how to implement the policy. Pat will prepare a current list of College standing committees and their membership by May 1.

3) **Artist forum (aka the Poetry Reading)** – The BCC will sponsor a poetry reading involving students in the College of Forestry and the English Department. Caryn Davis is teaming with Karen Holmberg, an Assistant Professor in English, to organize this event. Pat and Nick also volunteered to help with planning. The tentative date is Friday, June 6 in the first floor knuckle of Richardson Hall (3-4 PM, followed by a reception with refreshments). The reading will include original poems on the theme “Woods and Words” prepared by the students and samples of “historic” poems written by forestry students in the past. The College will provide two \$100 prizes for the best poems. The Poetry reading committee needs to work on the details and develop a budget for the event. We need to get this on the College calendar asap.

4) **Next Meeting** – One more meeting is planned before the summer break; say, the end of May. The agenda will include follow-up on the above topics and the Communications Action Plan. We also need to discuss membership of the BCC next year.

Recommendations for Improving ADA Access in Peavy and Richardson Halls

The following recommendations were provided by Katharine Hunter-Zaworski (Associate Professor, Civil and Construction Engineering) and David Bradford (Chair, OSU Commission on the Status of Individuals with Disabilities) during a tour of Peavy and Richardson Halls on March 31, 2008. Recommendations are in order of observation, not in any priority sequence. The listed recommendations incorporate concepts or requirements that would be included in new construction. It was recognized that retrofitting older buildings is expensive, and not always feasible due to physical limitations.

Kate indicated that the University has some funding budgeted for access improvements (obviously no where near the amount needed to satisfy all campus requirements). Her recommendation was to put together a long-term improvement plan and make annual funding requests to work on this list.

Potential Improvements:

Install signage in basement parking lot area to identify Richardson and Peavy entrances, and provide direction in hallway intersections and other key locations to appropriate elevators.

Install power door for access at both Richardson service entrance and Peavy locker room entrance, or establish common building use hours for both entrances. This is the closet handicap parking to the buildings, so ease of entry is important for people who use mobility aids. Peavy accessibility through basement is constrained only by elevator control heights.

Add beveled lips to door thresholds at building entrances. Many have squared edges with inch lifts from ground/floor. This can create a difficult crossing for some wheeled seating (this is required under ADAAG section 303, accessible building guidelines).

Ease tension on non-powered doors to common spaces (i.e. restrooms). Both buildings have heavy wooden or metal doors – they should open with 5 pounds of pressure or less. [ADAAG section 404.2.9]

Increase timing cycle on Richardson main entrance (Jefferson St) powered door. Current setting does not provide adequate time for wheeled individual to clear through both doors. [ADAAG section 404.2.8]

Richardson lifts have a stated capacity of 750 pounds – this is minimal capacity. A powered chair with occupant and attendant could exceed this limit.

Peavy water fountains are a trip hazard for limited-vision individuals using a cane to assist with navigation. The cane will not detect the water fountain. Ideally, fountains should be recessed, but skirts on both sides would help define the presence of an obstacle. [ADAAG section 307]

Peavy elevator controls (on the wall and in the car) are too high for wheeled users. Controls may not meet federal reach requirements, and do not meet OSU campus standards. They should be centered at 35”.

Peavy courtyard entrances should have signage indicating location of a receptionist who can provide directions to accessible facilities. Clearly visible building maps at all exterior doors to indicate main office, elevators and restrooms

Restrooms for Peavy 130 auditorium are not accessible. Stalls are too small for a wheelchair to maneuver. This leaves ground floor accessible restrooms as the ones in dean’s wing. Option would be to designate Peavy 112 (accessible women’s restroom) as a unisex restroom.

Student Services counter should have a lowered opening at some point for access at wheelchair level.

Student Services entrance door should be powered. Short-term improvement would be lever handles instead of round knob.

South entrance to Richardson Hall should be power doors. There are handicap parking spaces near this entrance, and accessible path but heavy door

Handicap parking spaces at South entrance of Richardson should be relocated so they are closer to the building.

Building layouts/floorplans (available by Richardson entrances) should highlight accessible doors, restrooms, offices for assistance, etc. Font sizes should be bigger for low vision visitors, and similar building floorplan plaques should be located at all major entrances.

Handicap parking spaces in lot West of Richardson should be moved closer to Richardson West entrance (a powered door), near the closest curb cut.

Duration that elevator doors remain open is too short – recommend 6 seconds minimum.

**Guidelines for committee makeup in the College of Forestry
DRAFT 4-09-08**

Two guiding principles should be followed in the selection of individuals to be members of committees. These are addressed by the following questions:

1) How can the committee composition best represent the population affected by decisions or recommendations made by the committee? This means that in many cases, college and department committees should include representation from non-professorial faculty, staff and students.

2) How can the diversity of thought and perspective on the committee be purposely enhanced by inclusion of specific individuals?

In addition adhering to the guiding principles, the following two practices regarding committee assignments should be followed by the COF:

1) All committee assignments and their charge should be posted on the College or department websites, as appropriate. This ensures that committee composition and purpose are transparent and apparent to all.

2) Each standing committee in the College and departments should have a plan for determining the composition of membership and its rotation over time.