

2007-2008 Annual Report
Disability Affairs Committee

The Disability Affairs Committee met twice during the 2007-2008 school year. The first meeting was held on October 3, 2007. The committee discussed offering sensitivity training for faculty and staff and conducting a survey on working with students with disabilities. Accessible parking for athletics events was also discussed. Bobby Gist reported on the visit by the Office of Civil Rights and the recommendations that were made to the Athletic Department to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The committee was also informed of the new emergency plan on campus and the accessible notification system that has been installed. As a result of this meeting, Karen Pettus was able to speak at the new faculty orientation in the fall. She explained the accommodation process for students, the letter sent to faculty to inform them of a student's needs, and ways faculty can work to include students with disabilities in their classes. Karen also addressed that accessibility is everyone's responsibility, not just the office of Student Disability Services.

The second meeting was held on July 23, 2008. Topics discussed were:

1. The impact of the budget cuts on services to students, the loss of one full-time staff personnel and two graduate assistants who could not be replaced.
2. Amendments to the ADA now make it easier for students to register with the office and seek accommodations. The anticipated result of these two items is that we will be providing accommodations to more students with less staff.
3. Low attendance at Faculty Drop-Ins and other ways to reach out to faculty who have students with disabilities enrolled in courses.
4. Students with disabilities are the focus group for Photo-voice this year and their focus on facilities.
5. Three CarolinaLIFE students participating in activities on campus and the positive impact for all students.
6. Anticipated increase in veteran students on campus, this group is a focus of the retention committee and the Veteran Student Advisory Group sponsored by the registrar's office. Both groups will be looking at ways to make veterans feel more welcome on campus.