**Disability Advisory Council**

**2008-2009 UWSP Accessibility Assessment Report**

The 2008-2009 Disability Advisory Council Accessibility Assessment is the third assessment of its kind. The purpose of this assessment is three-fold: 1) to evaluate existing facilities on campus in terms of accessibility to persons with disabilities; 2) to point out accessibility concerns that could or should be corrected if reasonable; and 3) to report the outcome of this assessment to the Chancellor.

The assessment involves an informal approach by Council members walking/riding through select buildings on campus and identifying obvious and hidden inaccessible settings or situations. The assessment team references a standardized tool, a Checklist for Existing Facilities (version 2.1) by the “ADA Title III Compliance Materials: The Americans with Disabilities Act Checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal.”

In 2008-09, three teams of Council members visited select buildings and made note of accessibility concerns. In each of the teams, one of the members was a wheelchair user who was able to provide firsthand experience in identifying accessibility needs.

Five buildings were visited for this assessment. The Council decided that each year for three years running, four or five building would be selected for visiting. Over time when most campus buildings have been visited, the cycle could begin again after evaluating previous assessment results as a measurement of change.

**Executive Summary:**

The campus buildings visited in 2008-09 included:

**Team A** – Trainer Natural Resource Building and Baldwin Residential Living Hall

**Team B** – Delzell Hall

**Team C** – Collins Classroom Center and Allen Center

Outcome from this assessment indicates that all five facilities most likely meet minimal requirements for accessibility. Careful observation revealed that several seemingly minor conditions provided an inaccessible situation for someone with a physical or sensory disability. Some of these situations could result in change, considering they may be reasonable and not expensive to remedy.

Examples include: there appears to be a lack of printed signage and some Braille signage in most buildings assessed, especially lacking is elevator information signage. There appears to be many inaccessible drinking fountains remaining in buildings. Many offices in some buildings are small and space it tight. And, counters in several department offices are too high and not accessible to someone in a wheelchair.

Noteworthy related to accessibility, it that there is a new elevator in Baldwin Hall. And, most classrooms and other instructional space are easily accessible.

**Assessment / Observations:**

Assessment results include some noteworthy accessibility situations that were observed, and accessibility concerns that should be addressed.

***Team A***

**Trainer Natural Resources**

Accessibility noted:

* Classrooms, labs, offices and restrooms have easy access for the most part

Accessibility Concerns:

* Outside of building is not marked for accessible entrance
* No power assist door on south side of building; recommend for southwest or southeast entrances
* No elevator signage in building
* No rescue direction signage in upper floors
* No low mirror for wheelchair use in men’s restroom
* Emergency shower in room 320 not accessible; eye wash too high
* No bench to accommodate wheelchair in some second floor labs
* Door knobs rather than levers exist throughout old section of building
* Coat hooks in some rooms are all too high

**Baldwin Residential Living Hall**

Accessibility noted:

* Now has elevator for accessibility

Accessibility Concerns:

* No safe zone or place for rescue at southeast staircase on lower level
* Lower level public restroom is not accessible
* Drinking fountains are too high
* No power assist door from main floor lobby into living quarters
* Exterior parking across street; but no curb cuts on Baldwin side of parking lot
* Showers not accessible on above floors

***Team B***

**Delzell Hall**

Accessibility noted:

* Low counters are in place as appropriate
* Accessible bathrooms are in place; emergency bell in place in first floor bathroom

Accessibility Concerns:

* Lack signage for visually impaired
* Lack of printed or Braille elevator signage
* Old shower in restroom is not accessible
* Drinking fountains are too high

***Team C***

 **Collins Classroom Center**

Accessibility noted:

* Classroom access is good
* Lift on first floor available for accessing lecture hall
* Good elevator access

Accessibility Concerns:

* Drinking fountains are too high on some floors
* Building lacks elevator signage
* First floor lift to lecture hall lacks signage
* High Braille signs on all floors
* High counter in several offices
* No turn-around space in vending area
* Room 128 has only front room access; then steps to back of room
* Need space for wheelchairs in lecture hall #213; remove 2 seats and add accessible desk or table
* Many small offices; too tight of space for wheelchairs; some tight hall space
* Several department offices lack access; space too tight
* Coat rack in classroom too high
* Tight isle space for wheelchair access in 3rd floor computer room
* Not enough accessible restrooms
* Door knobs are throughout the building

**Allen Center**

Accessibility noted:

* Restrooms, drinking fountains, locker room, studio, program rooms and some exercise equipment have easy access; with adequate power access doors
* Elevator, restroom and other space signage is good
* Main office area has low counter

Accessibility Concerns:

* Sticky power access door button at entrance
* No power access doors in locker room
* Public computer located too high
* Kitchen counter space is too high

**Conclusion:**

Concerns identified above only reflect that which was assessed by team members from observing segment of a given building. Not every room or space in a building was observed. The above list of concerns should not be looked at as a measure of positives and negatives, but rather as a list of concerns that were observed and recommended as consideration for change.

The Council is not certain if changes have been or will be made based on the aforementioned information. The intent of the assessment is not to criticize campus facilities. Nor is the intent to create expenses and hardships for the University. The intent is to provide accessibility awareness and identify some access changes that are needed in order to make the University more accessible for persons with disabilities and more welcoming for everyone.

The Council’s goals for 2010-11 include creating a follow-up plan to identify changes that may have resulted from the past three annual accessibility assessment reports; as well creating as a means of making further recommendations for change.

The Council looks forward to continuing to address accessibility concerns and promoting disability and accessibility awareness.

**Assessment completed by the Disability Advisory Council Members**