

Swap Session Newsletter

Issues and Perspectives: Students with Disabilities

November, 22, 2002

Gretchen Holden and Andrea Blair, Disability Support Services

**The Rehab Act of 1993 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504
and**

The Americans with Disabilities Act:

are the two federal legislations by which Disabilities Support Services abides.

Who qualifies for services?

- ☞ Wide range of disabilities
 - Physical/Visible → Invisible
- ☞ Some students are not covered
- ☞ Must impact a major life activity
 - Walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, etc.

Documentation

Students with invisible disabilities (i.e.: ADD, ADHD, etc.) require very extensive documentation of their disabilities.

- Students must provide documentation
- Diagnosis done through psychologist
- Test scores are required
- Disability must demonstrate enough severity for assistance through center

ADD & ADHD

Attention Deficit Disorder &
Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder

400 or the 500-600 students receiving aid through the center have ADD or ADHD

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- ✗ Do not have to accommodate based solely on physician's note.
- ✗ When requesting more time for a test, documentation is very important.
- ✗ When students don't follow existing procedures, university is not responsible.
- ✗ University responsible for having adequate procedures for insuring that faculty have proper notice of students with disability documentation.
- ✗ Students must give "timely notice" when in need of accommodations.

When dealing with students with disabilities in a legal framework, decisions are made on an individual basis.

COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY

Developed 15 years ago by the Dean's Faculty Senate and Administration

- ✓ Method by which a student who cannot complete a course may substitute another class
- ✓ Developed because there were great inequities between colleges



Panel Presentation

Students: Sherice Phillips, Carlos Rich

Faculty: Ann Stalheim-Smith

Administrator: Larry Erpelding



Sherice Phillips and Carlos Rich

- ✓ Disabled students at Kansas State University
- ✓ Utilize adaptive technology to assist them with their academics
- ✓ Bring academic materials to center to have them taped and/or enlarged
- ✓ Find Kansas State University to be a friendly environment for students with disabilities

Ann Stalheim-Smith

- ✓ Teaches Human Body
- ✓ Made many accommodations for the lab
 - Created low table so students in wheelchairs could use microscope
 - Provided clipboards for students in wheelchairs
 - Uses overhead projectors for hearing impaired students
- ✓ Has used common sense and sensitivity to make a highly interactive classroom accommodate student needs

Larry Erpelding

- ✓ A few important groups of people at a university
 - Faculty
 - Supporting staff
 - Administration
 - Students
- ✓ Students are *most* important; without them we wouldn't need to be here
- ✓ We must do what we can to make *all* of our students successful
 - Unidentified problems can prevent success for students
 - Early detection is *key*
 - Students' first contact is with their advisor
 - Advisor may be the first to note academic performance absenteeism
- ✓ Universities should work closely with advisors, faculty members and students to guarantee student success