



SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

May 21, 2015

R. Bowin Loftin, PhD.  
Chancellor  
University of Missouri  
105 Jesse Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211

Re: **Committee for Persons with Disabilities Committee (CCPD)**  
*The charge to the Committee for Persons with Disabilities is to advise the provost on MU programs, services and policies that affect students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities.*

Chancellor Loftin,

For the past several years the CCPD has been a very active committee. We meet monthly during the fall and spring semesters and maintain ongoing conversation during the summer. The Committee comprises rotating positions filled by faculty, staff and students. Additionally, we are fortunate to have a core of *ex officio* experts in disability/accessibility, who play an essential role in maintaining MU's compliance with the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and strive to make our campus a welcoming community for students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors with disabilities. Our work this year included:

- Over the past two years, the CCPD has conceptualized, planned, executed and reviewed an award process to recognize disability advocates on campus. The MU Disability Center organizes an annual *Celebrate Ability Week* in the fall. The year's activities included a reception where the CCPD presented **the first annual Access Mizzou Award** in honor of Albert "Lee" Henson, MU's ADA Coordinator for 20 years prior to his death in 2014. This year we have revised the nomination process and are in the process of setting up an online nomination capability for fall, 2015.
- The CCPD developed a Disability/ Accessibility Policy that was incorporated into MU's Business Policies and Procedures Manual in August 2012. A subcommittee has worked to promote increased awareness of the policy on campus. One result was this year's **campus calendar** (MU Printing Services), which highlights an aspect of accessibility at MU each month.
- A recent edition of the *Maneater* published an investigative article highlighting the general **lack of accessibility of Greek Town** and Greek events and activities. Given that these organizations are housed on private property, they may request exception to MU's ADA compliance regulations. In the past, there has been limited awareness or interest in

improving accessibility among many if not most of MUs Greek chapters. Other large universities have approached this issue in a number of ways and we are in the early stage of exploring possibilities for MU. We have scheduled a meeting with Campus Life representatives to explore the problem and potential next steps.

- The committee was contacted by a student, who expressed concern about the dangerousness of the intersection at Rollins and College Streets for pedestrians with vision impairments. CCPD *ex officio*, Amber Cheek, MU's Disability Inclusion and ADA Compliance Manager, is working with University and City officials toward resolution and will keep the Committee updated on progress.

The Committee's goal for the summer is to meet with representatives from Student Life to discuss ways to encourage MU's Greek Community to embrace a culture of inclusion. Next year the Committee will reach out to MU's Marketing and Communications group to encourage and support fully accessible campus communications.

I am pleased to report that I was honored with the **School of Health Professions' Service award** this year. This honor reflected my work on the CCPD and role as chair, which I have held since 2010.

In the past, the CCPD has enjoyed positive and affirming working relationships with MU's Provost and Chancellor. We hope to establish a supportive relationship with MU's new leadership as well. We would welcome a chance to meet with you and we are open to any feedback from you that would improve our work.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl L. Shigaki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Cheryl L. Shigaki, Ph.D., ABPP  
Associate Professor  
Chair, Committee for Persons with Disabilities