

Motion to Address Accessibility Concerns on Campus
(Submitted to the Faculty Senate – April 15, 2010)

Whereas the Campus Environment Committee was given the charge to “review and report on accessibility and provision of resources to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities “ at Radford University,

Whereas the Diversity Equity Action Committee has raised concerns to the Campus Environment Committee about accessibility on campus,

The Campus Environment Committee hereby recommends that the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate give direction and guidance for actions of the Campus Environment Committee for Fall, 2010 to address the following issues:

1. There is no Social Equity Officer at RU. It is unclear what the process is for bringing diversity and equity issues to the attention of the university administrators and policymakers.
2. The Human Resource Office at RU is not accessible. This may reflect unfavorably on the campus as a whole in the recruiting and retention process and could raise liability issues.
3. The word ‘disability’ does not appear in any way in the 7-17 Plan, which leaves open the question of how the university views persons with disabilities in terms of student, staff and faculty needs, and could negatively impact the university legally, professionally and ethically.
4. Section 508 of the Americans with Disability Act states that all websites and materials should be universally available to all persons regardless of disability. This should be addressed as it does not appear to be the case at Radford.

Rationale: The Diversity Equity Action Committee is charged with reviewing policies and procedures concerning equity issues at Radford University. They have identified the concerns above with regard to equity and accessibility on the Radford University Campus. In order to assure that Radford University is meeting all legal and moral obligations with regard to equity and accessibility, these concerns should be investigated further and corrections to current policies and procedures made where needed. This motion would direct the Faculty Senate Executive Council to consider the issues outlined in this motion over their summer session in order to develop a further directive for the CEC in Fall, 2010. This directive should take the form of a charge to investigate and recommend potential solutions to the concerns identified above, which would then be brought to the full Faculty Senate for consideration by December 31, 2011.