The Americans with Disabilities Advisory Committee met Tuesday, March 13, 2007 in the faculty lounge. Those present were Mickey Cannon, Marilyn Nicholson, Richard Lynn, Mike Tedder, and David Jones.

Mr. Jones opened the meeting with defining the committee’s functions and introduced Mickey Cannon as the ADA compliance office. Mr. Cannon has been to training and has established contacts across the state with other ADA officers.

Mr. Cannon explained every ADA case is different. The main issue is having proper documentation from the appropriate professional. Once a student provides this documentation, as long as the request is reasonable, the school is obligated to meet the request. He also stated an ADA student cannot come into an institution and expect to create a financial hardship or request accommodations that affect the integrity of the institution. Mr. Cannon said the most commonly requested accommodations are extra time on test, to tape lectures, larger calculators, copy instructor’s notes, have a note taker, and/or sit in the front of the classroom.

One particular case was mentioned because of the outstanding job of documentation the student had and the fact the school was able to purchase software and a scanner that reads back the information to the student.

Mr. Jones brought up the problem with desk size. Richard Lynn then stated the last desk bought are the largest available and we may have to go to more table and chair combinations.

Randy Gull, from the Department of Postsecondary Education, is going to provide the college with a list of items that need to be checked to prevent complaints for handicapped students.

Diversity Council has brought up the issue of no wheelchair access to the ATN building. Mr. Jones stated it would be easier to go ahead and add a ramp rather that waiting on a complaint and the possible implications that could bring.

Maurice Moore indicated batteries need to be checked in the doorbells.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by:
Sharon Morris