

Facilities Audit
Institutional Planning response

October 17, 2007

We asked Scott Lissner to audit a number of our facilities and to help train a group of individuals who would serve as an on-campus resource for continued evaluation of our buildings and pathways.

The contents of the audit report are highly consistent both with the conversations that we had with him during his visit and also with our own understanding of our facilities. We have updated our accessibility list to include the issues mentioned in the report. We have just a few remarks and corrections to make:

1. Walkways/pathways. We eliminated most orphaned curbs this past summer (2007). One exception is the curb at the John Chrystal Center, which was retained for grade issues. We will review the decision to retain it. We will explore the advisability of removing the walk to the curb at Fine Arts. The northwest corner of 6th Ave. and Park St., which is the property of the City of Grinnell, remains problematic as a consequence of the location of the sewer drain there. The rail road crossing remains problematic and something that is in the control of the rail road company, not the College. We understand that the system that Scott recommended for our rail road crossings has been installed downtown, and that the gap there is over 2” in some locations. We will continue to work with the rail road company to attempt to improve the conditions of the crossings on campus. We also propose that the Health Center show inexperienced wheelchair users how to best cross tracks.
2. John Chrystal Center bathroom. The report states that the urinal alcove in the men’s bathroom is out of compliance, but notes that there are accessible stalls in that bathroom. This bathroom was indeed built with stalls meeting accessible standards. Since there was additional space there, and since we already had met accessibility standards with the stalls, we chose to squeeze in a urinal. We do not propose attempting to change or remove the urinal. Local officials find this decision acceptable.
3. Local officials are content with the Burling Library main level restroom, as this is a good faith effort to improve the accessibility of a problematic pre-existing building.