



To: Marci Sortor, Vice President for Institutional Planning

641-269-4536
fax 641-269-4473
www.grinnell.edu

CC: President Kington

From: The Accessibility Committee: Jennifer Krohn, Chair, Chris Bair, Rachael Bly, Steve Briscoe, Kristin Lovig, Karen McRitchie, Jeanette Moser, Jim Mulholland, Joyce Stern, and Rick Whitney,

RE: The Forum and South Lounge

Date: December 15, 2010

During the past year the Accessibility Committee has discussed issues related to (in)accessibility of the Forum.

The Accessibility Committee unanimously recommends the following:

- Due to the lack of accessibility of the Forum, **the Forum should be taken down.** The multiple levels in this building are the biggest structural impediment to making it accessible. In examining the steps necessary to make the building accessible, FM has determined that it is financially and architecturally not feasible to renovate the building (e.g., building an addition with elevators and restrooms along with other major modifications throughout the building).
- **As long as the Forum is still in use, the South Lounge should not be used for "public" or "all come" events** but rather only for private events for which organizers know precisely who will be attending. All events held on campus must be accessible to everyone who is invited to attend. Holding only private events in the South Lounge is necessary because (a) organizers of "all come" events cannot predict who will attend, and (b) these events (because of their size) are not moveable to an accessible location at the last minute if someone with a mobility impairment makes it clear that he/she wants to attend. In lieu of South Lounge, organizers should use existing (accessible) spaces on campus.
- Conference Operations and Events reports regular and specialized use of the South Lounge space. Clearly a need for a space like this exists. **Campus and space utilization planning should include a fully accessible space (or spaces) similar to the size and function of the South Lounge.**

- Other public spaces located in the Forum, including the Creative Computing Lab, the Help Desk, the Training Room west of the Help Desk and the restrooms are inaccessible. Campus and space utilization planning should include identifying accessible locations for these functions in the future.



We welcome you sharing these recommendations with any other decision makers you feel appropriate. We appreciate any opportunity to be part of the conversations regarding the campus plan for the Forum, Central Campus, and further building or significant renovations.