

Ad Hoc Committee for Campus Awareness & Education

In 2006/07 the ad hoc Committee on Issues of Disability at Grinnell College was chaired by Joyce Stern, Dean of Student Academic Support and Advising and Ralph Savarese, Associate Professor of English; and included eleven active members from the faculty, staff and student body: Todd Armstrong, Associate Professor of Russian; Jessica Eaton '07; Amanda Gotera '09, Leah Krandel '09; Ann McCullough '07; Karen McRitchie, Information Technology Service Team Leader; Jim Sumner, Dean of Admissions; Maria Tapias, Assistant Professor of Anthropology; and Hannah Zurko '08.

The Committee has three primary objectives: (1) awareness/education, (2) curricular enhancement, (3) recruitment and retention of students, staff and faculty with disabilities. Specifically, we seek to:

- raise awareness of disability-related issues on Grinnell College campus, including challenges related to physical access, obstacles to access, types of accommodations, and providing and using accommodations;
- emphasize the difference between formal compliance with the law (ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act) and true openness and accessibility, creating a truly 'disability-friendly' campus;
- encourage faculty to include issues of disability within existing courses, and eventually expand curricular offerings to include the study of disability as a field of knowledge; and
- enhance recruitment of students, faculty and staff with disabilities or people who have family members with disabilities, moving toward active and intentional recruitment of people with disabilities.