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DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
HANOVER · NEW HAMPSHIRE
03755

August 29, 1977

THE PRESIDENT

TO: All Dartmouth College Personnel

FROM: John G. Kemeny

SUBJECT: HEW Rules Prohibiting Discrimination
Against the Handicapped

On May 4, 1977, HEW's Office for Civil Rights published final regulations for implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Section 504 reads as follows:

"No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, shall, solely by reason of his handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

The May 4th regulations state that "Handicapped persons means any person who has a physical or mental impairment which limits one or more major life activities...." The term handicap includes such diseases or conditions as speech, hearing, visual and orthopedic impairments, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, mental retardation, emotional illness, specific learning disabilities such as perceptual handicaps, dyslexia, minimal brain dysfunction and developmental aphasia. The Attorney General of the United States has ruled that alcohol and drug addicts are also considered handicapped. With respect to addicts, as well as other handicapped, the regulations protect the rights of qualified individuals, only.

Section 504 is a very significant statute with far-reaching implications for handicapped persons and institutions alike. The regulations pertain to facility construction and renovation, employment, admissions and recruitment, treatment of students, academic program adjustments, financial assistance, athletics, student guidance and placement services, and others. It has been said that the regulations may bring together more individuals from different campus offices and departments than any previous federal initiative or local campus program.

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Let's discuss - talk with respect to:
① who is hell drafted this for JGK?
② your own hand drafted this for JGK?
being for the officers!!

Because our campus is 200 years old, the regulations obviously impose some difficult challenges for us. The regulations, however, stress program accessibility. It is not necessary to make structural changes in existing facilities when programs can be made accessible by other methods such as reassignment of classes or assignment of aides to handicapped individuals.

Dartmouth College is committed to the goal of non-discrimination against qualified handicapped persons. I am appointing a committee, including several handicapped persons, to assist the College in these efforts. I have asked Robert G. Barnum, Assistant to the Vice President for Administration, to chair this committee and to coordinate our efforts to comply with these new regulations. If you would like to review the new regulations, or if you desire further information, please feel free to contact Mr. Barnum. Also, I encourage any handicapped student or employee who is encountering difficulties at the College as a result of his/her handicap to discuss the situation with Mr. Barnum.

John G. Kenney

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