

DATE: 3/27/78

TO: Chairmen of All Major Programs

FROM: Richard Luplow, Chairman, Sub-Committee for Program Accessibility,
Committee on the Handicapped

SUBJECT: Questions re: Accommodation of Handicapped Students to Accord with
H.E.W. Section 504 Regulations

The regulations stipulate that all programs at an institution such as Dartmouth which receives federal funds must be made accessible to handicapped students. (For the sake of this questionnaire, "handicapped student" will include students confined to a wheelchair and blind and deaf students). This does not mean that all buildings on campus must be made accessible to such students. Rather, only a sufficient number of buildings must be physically, architecturally modified so that either the handicapped student can get to the program or the program can be feasibly brought to the student. The latter approach will be achieved in the large majority of cases through the simple expedient of shifting a class, when necessary, from an inaccessible building to an accessible one. If there is any distance or other mobility problem involved in such a shift, a campus van specially designed to transport wheelchair confined or otherwise handicapped students will be in regular operation. Obviously, some classes, such as laboratory classes, are not capable of being shifted, and we are particularly interested in such non-shiftable classes.

The Committee on the Handicapped has devised a Transition Plan for physical accessibility for Dartmouth and a three-stage priority sequence for implementation of the Plan. The Trustees have approved the Priority I changes, and these modifications will be begun this summer. The deadline for completion of all necessary structural changes is June 2, 1980. The deadline for completion of a prior self-evaluation of the adequacy of the Plan is June 2, 1978. Copies are enclosed of the Priority List of Facility Alterations plus details of alterations specifically of buildings involved directly in the various programs.

The Committee asks you to examine the enclosures and then answer the following questions. You may assume that any class in your program(s) without specific physical requirements (e.g. most or all history courses) may be shifted when necessary and needs no comment. You may also assume that readers for blind students and interpreters for deaf students will be provided as needed. In making your answers, please keep in mind that in this matter equivalency of opportunity, not strict equality, is the principal criterion.

Questions:

- 1) What are the requirements (very briefly summarized) for each of your major programs, including any modified or combined majors you have been a part of in the past and including graduate programs?
- 2) What are the normal or usual waivers of requirements for each of these programs?

- 3) What other waivers of requirements do you think would be reasonable and feasible to accommodate a handicapped student who wishes to major in one of your programs but cannot physically meet all course requirements?
- 4) Do you have any past experience in the accommodation of handicapped students which might provide us with useful information? Please summarize this if you do. If you know the names of any such students, please list them (including, if known, year of graduation).
- 5) Are our plans for physical accessibility, through priority category I, sufficient to allow a handicapped student to major in each of your programs according to the usual requirements of these programs or by allowing for the potential waivers possible as outlined in your answers (2) and (3) above? If not, would the plans be sufficient through priority category II or III (please specify which changes in which category are needed). If the answer is still no, indicate what further changes or alterations seem to you to be needed.
- 6) Are there any courses in your department or program which are not a usual part of a major program and which might lead to problems for a handicapped student who desires to take such courses? Please elaborate.

Please return your answers to William Durant, Jr., Hinman Box 6045, by May 1st, 1978. Whenever any problems exist, a member of the Committee will get in touch with you to arrange a meeting to discuss ways of eliminating problems. If you have any questions while completing this questionnaire, you may contact Richard Luplow, 643-3481, William B. Durant, Jr., ext. 2659, or Robert Kleck, ext. 2056. We will also be present at the next Divisional Council meetings, and you may raise preliminary questions at that time.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Richard Luplow (jmb)
Richard Luplow
Chairman,
Sub-Committee for Program Accessibility

RJL/jmb