

Senate Council Meeting
November 20, 2006
Disability Resource Center Resolution

In an email to the Office of the Senate Council on Wednesday, October 25, 2006, Jake Karnes explained his request for a formal resolution from the University Senate:

There are two major reasons for the resolution. First, the number of students requesting accommodations from instructors has significantly increased in recent years. Because it affects so many instructors, I think a discussion of this procedure at the Senate level is important. Secondly, instructors call the Disability Resource Center and want to know where it is written that they must provide accommodations for students with disabilities. Because accommodations are required by law, we currently refer them to the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as well as to the UK Office of Institutional Equity. I think a written statement for the Senate would be a more appropriate place to refer them.

Recommendation: that the Senate Council move the following and send to the Senate with a positive recommendation:

“Students with disabilities are required to provide instructors letters of accommodation from the University of Kentucky Disability Resource Center prior to requesting any accommodation in their classes for a disability. Students must provide the Center extensive disability documentation before qualifying for accommodations. (The accommodation criteria can be found on the Center web page under “Documentation Guidelines.”) The confidential letters are the official notice to instructors confirming that the student is eligible for the stated accommodations according to University guidelines and that it is the instructor’s legal responsibility to fulfill the requests. Additionally, the letters serve as a guideline for effective teaching and testing of students who, because of limitations imposed by disability, have different modes of learning and demonstrating mastery of material. Instructors are encouraged to contact the Center for additional information, clarification and assistance about providing accommodation.

“The University has a long tradition of accommodating students with disabilities, preceding the existence of any Federal mandates. In keeping with that tradition and in recognition of the necessity to comply with the law (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disabilities Act), the University Senate acknowledges the need to accommodate students with disabilities and endorses the University accommodation procedure.”