

## ATTACHMENT

### Technology Access

Brian Young spoke to the Committee about web accessibility, technology access and related issues. Key points of his talk were:

- 1) How to identify people (students) with needs is a problem. Individual disclosure is not always known by administration.
- 2) Common tools in technology that assist people with accessibility include –
  - a) Larger monitor screens.
  - b) Software programs including assistance for hearing and sight impaired. Programs are also available to help people with ADD.
  - c) Furniture and fixtures designed to be adjustable and give people a physical posture to aid computer access.
  - d) Media people collaborating to have printed material published in voice communication software.
  - e) Computer hardware like printers with larger fonts. It was noted that the cost of hardware and software is quite high. Individual needs for accessibility to technology may approach \$200,000 per station.
- 3) At Creighton University, Mr. Young has:
  - a) Installed a need to be thoughtful about needs of all people.
  - b) Retained a web master that is well-trained in ADA requirements for technology, web sites and distance learning.
  - c) Started an initiative to have the Creighton University web page being controlled and with limited ability for change; hence, a more accessible product without links to more departmental and individual sites. The latter groups would have alternate revenue for web sites. Presently, there are over 6,000 pages on the Creighton web-site.
  - d) Started training in web accessibility for individuals responsible for the development of departmental and individual web sites. This training is extended to departments and faculty involved in distance learning programs.
- 4) Challenges ahead for Creighton:
  - a) Funding the barrier removal program in the technology arena is expensive. The efforts are also likely not reliable after about four years because of changes in technology.
  - b) Need to create computer labs that can be used to share accessible technology.
  - c) It is expected that web-sites and educational programs are equally accessible to all people including disadvantaged.