

# CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

## University Senate

### Sense of the Senate Resolution on Transitioning to a Campus that is Accessible To Individuals with Disabilities

19-23/24-EX - March 05, 2024

**WHEREAS:** The Cal Poly Humboldt Strategic Enrollment Plan (<https://sem.humboldt.edu/>) states in Item 4.3(e):

All campus buildings and areas are fully accessible to campus population (including transportation/mobility getting from one side to the other)

**WHEREAS:** Organizations including the City of Arcata provide a publicly accessible ADA Transition Plan, including the status of issues, and the results of evaluations (<https://www.cityofarcata.org/773/ADA-Transition-Plan>). The ADA plan for the university has been requested but not received.

**WHEREAS:** Campus has had a number of physical upgrades since the passing of the ADA in 1990 including the addition of accessible bathrooms, modifications to sidewalks, and the installation of automatic doors. There remains, a large number of barriers to physical accessibility as detailed in a “Campus ADA Scope List” from Facilities Management: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tYfamL8p5QS0BBR0\\_AhErP5wNlsrUA6t/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tYfamL8p5QS0BBR0_AhErP5wNlsrUA6t/view?usp=drive_link). The document appears to contain over 300 accessibility issues but does not include the status of addressing the issues or the date the issue was identified nor does it reference an ADA Transition Plan required upon the enactment of ADA (1990).

**WHEREAS:** ADA section 12182 states:

No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.

<https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/ada/#section41>

This would indicate that if services cannot be moved to an accessible location, changes to existing structures need to be undertaken, even if such changes bring the structure out of “safe harbor” protections (1991) and under the current ADA Standards for Accessible Design (2010) and/or HUD Fair Housing Act ANSI standards (2008), applied respective to type and use of a structure or facility.

**WHEREAS:** An ad hoc issues list has been created by concerned campus affiliates with over 30 issues collected from just 9 individuals over the last year. This list is not based on an audit of campus or a full survey of Cal Poly Humboldt students, employees, and other affiliates. The list is available at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YSYmNocr3rAGA5vjWLdEbLJZMvgARp3AEZhidXTNfaY/edit#heading=h.ucey5a8hy8sb>. Issues that have been investigated, verified, and documented include:

1. The Communications Department is on the second floor of the Telonicher building which is only accessible through one of two sets of stairs.
2. There is an accessibility map available on the university website which includes some accessible features but does not include the location of accessible bathrooms. Some areas of the defined accessible pathways on the map exceed ADA slope requirements, one of them by a factor of almost 3  
(<https://www.humboldt.edu/sites/default/files/2023-01/campusaccessmap.pdf>).
3. The Campus Disability Resource Center (CDRC) shuttle, now managed through Transportation and Parking Services, has taken over a month for folks to be approved for its use requiring individuals with mobility to navigate areas of campus that put them in danger of injury. We understand that our Interim Director of the CDRC is working on this.
4. When emergencies like fires and earthquakes occur, the elevators that individuals use mobility devices (e.g. wheelchairs) are turned off for safety reasons. There are instructions posted in multi-story buildings for individuals to use the stairs in an emergency but not for individuals with disabilities. In the spring of 2023, a promise was made to post evacuation instructions for individuals using mobility devices by the start of the fall 2023 semester. By the start of the spring 2024 semester, these instructions were not found in the buildings checked (Natural Resources, and Behavioral and Social Sciences).
5. The bushes along Laurel between the Jenkins building and Art B have overgrown the railings that are there to help individuals with disabilities up and down the slope. It required over a year of requests for the bushes to be trimmed back. Initially, only the bushes on one side of the road were trimmed. Additional requests were required to remove the rest of the bushes.
6. The Natural Resources 101 lecture hall does not have access for someone using a mobility device. Given the room has 99 stations for students, the ADA rule would indicate it should have accessibility for 4 wheelchairs (ADA Title II, Table 221.2.1).

**WHEREAS:** The Disability Access and Compliance Committee (DACC) did not meet for 5 years despite significant need. It is currently being reconstituted, but there is much work to be done to include shared governance in this effort and make progress addressing issues.

**WHEREAS:** A year ago, the process for reporting issues was not well documented and the ADA Coordinator did not respond to multiple email requests for explanations of the process. With the hiring of a new ADA Coordinator, there is now a form on the CDRC website to submit an issue. There is no known process for checking the progress on resolving issues.

**WHEREAS:** The existing issues effectively limit equitable access for students, employees, and visitors using mobility devices, like wheelchairs from campus. Last year there were at least two students on campus that used wheelchairs. Both of these students complained about how hard it was to access campus and both are now gone.

**WHEREAS:** Cal Poly Humboldt has reorganized its approach to ADA by combining all functions, including student 504, employee ADA, and accessibility under one office CDRC. The office was understaffed originally and additional staff will be required for it to accomplish its expanded scope for students, employees, and those attending university sponsored events/functions.

**RESOLVED:** That the campus brings itself to a minimum level of accessibility for individuals that have physical disabilities before the fall 2024 semester begins:

1. The Communications Department is made accessible to individuals using mobility devices.
2. Update the disability pathways to be within ADA slope limits.
3. Provide an online map that includes all the elements required by individuals using mobility devices including the location of accessible bathrooms and complete pathways with an indication of the slope of each pathway.
4. Evacuation instructions for people with disabilities are available in all multi-story buildings that house activities and programs.
5. Reduce the time to be approved for using the on campus shuttle to 24 hours at most.

**RESOLVED:** That a list of issues that have been reported is made available to the campus community and includes the date the issue was raised, the status of a resolution, and the date the issue was resolved. The names of reporters should be retained so they can be notified when the issue is resolved but they may wish to have their name be kept confidential.

**RESOLVED:** That Facilities Management prioritize and be given the resources to maintain facilities that provide access for individuals with disabilities.

**RESOLVED:** That a self-evaluation of facilities for accessibility be conducted annually and the results made accessible to the university community in a format that can be easily understood.

**RESOLVED:** That the CDRC office is adequately staffed to support timely services to students and employees for accommodation as well as to manage campus accessibility concerns toward successful resolution.

**RESOLVED:** That a plan is developed for making our campus truly accessible to all individuals in an open manner that includes all appropriate organizational units and individuals with a cross section of disabilities. A first draft to be made available to the senate for review then made available to the campus community in the spring of 2025.

**Disbursement List**

Cal Poly Humboldt Presidential Office

Associated Students Executive Director Kendra Higgs

Staff council

SenEx

Carla Hoa

General Faculty\*