MEMO

From: Larry Levine and Robert Boswell
Subject: Digital Accessibility
Date: January 5, 2015

Dear Campus Community Members:

CU-Boulder has clear federal obligations and a moral responsibility to ensure that all CU-Boulder students have access to high-quality educational content and services. As an increasingly significant component of nearly every student’s experience involves technology, a concerted effort is underway to develop the policy, standards and appropriate resources on campus to support equal access for all students, regardless of the technology platform and regardless of whether the student is a person with a disability.

While efforts were already underway, in spring 2014, an inquiry from the U.S. Department of Justice encouraged us to consider accessibility of information communication technology (ICT) in a much broader context. By ICT, we mean any electronic system or equipment, and content contained therein, used to create, convert, communicate, or duplicate data or information. To that end, over the past six months a committee composed of faculty members and staff members -- from OIT, University Counsel, Human Resources, Disability Services, and Procurement Services -- have worked on a campus policy that will create digital accessibility standards and practices for the campus community.

Our initial draft of this policy and associated standards are now available for comment by the campus from January to April 2015. Given the ubiquitous and pervasive nature of information communication technology (ICT), a clear, simple, and compliant policy statement with accompanying standards about accessibility is needed.

The final policy and standards must not only fulfill the University’s obligations under the law, but also reflect our university culture. We want to create a successful, accessible ICT environment that will remove barriers and preserve the quality of the educational experience for all students. To these ends, we solicit your constructive comments on this draft. Please send feedback to oitfeedback@colorado.edu.

Sincerely, Larry Levine, Robert Boswell and the ICT Policy Committee

Michael Grant, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Lew Harvey, Professor, Psychology and Neuroscience
Carla Hoskins, Assistant Director, Disability Services
Michelle Krech, Sr. Assistant Counsel
Charlene Lydick, Associate Director of Procurement
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