

REPORT ON OSSD

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I would like to begin by mentioning several positive developments concerning The OSSD office:

1. The OSSD office has been moved from being under the Office of Student Affairs to being under Academic Affairs which is where it belongs because OSSD provides academic services like the monitoring of exams, the provision of tutoring services and the acquisition and maintenance of adaptive technology.
2. The OSSD office has been moved to a much better location, which is accessible. Access and a central location are both important to the functioning of this office.
3. Thanks to help from the Technology Committee, OSSD was able to purchase several different kinds of adaptive technology, which are located throughout the campus. This equipment fulfills a vital educational need for many of our students with disabilities.
4. The OSSD office now also has a full-time secretary.

There still are some remaining problems, which need to be dealt with by the college administration. The understaffing of the OSSD office is the most immediate problem, which requires our attention. I would recommend that a line for an Assistant Coordinator for this office be created and a search be immediately begun to fill this position. We had an Assistant Coordinator in this office from 2001-2002, but she was terminated and not replaced. One professional staff person cannot be expected to adequately serve all of our students with disabilities. I would also recommend that the Technical Support person in this office be made permanent and full-time, rather than part-time and temporary. It is his job to keep all of the adaptive technology in working order and to provide training to students for all of this equipment. In order for students to be able to use this equipment properly, they often require several hours of training.