



## DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES STUDENT AFFAIRS

### Policy on Students with Disabilities

#### 1.0 Preamble

The University is committed to providing equal opportunities for people with disabilities to access higher education. The University strives to provide an environment that not only enhances their inclusion in University activities, but also increases their chances of success in their studies.

#### 2.0 Definitions

For purposes of this policy the terms are defined as follows;

**“Student”** means any person currently registered for receipt of instruction at the University of Botswana.

**“Student with disability”** means a student of the University with temporary or permanent disability that impairs cognitive or learning function, or hinders physical access to campus facilities.

**“Members of the University Community”** means employees and students of the University.

#### 3.0 Operating Principles

3.1 The University endeavors to provide students with disabilities with the opportunity to realize their individual capabilities for physical, social, emotional and intellectual development through full participation in the life of the University.

3.2 The University will ensure the delivery of services to students with disabilities in a manner which respects and promotes their dignity, privacy, confidentiality, rights and opportunities.

- 3.3 The University will provide students with disabilities appropriate physical access to all relevant campus facilities.
- 3.4 The University will not discriminate on any grounds against otherwise qualified individuals who apply for admission.
- 3.5 The University shall encourage the use of non-discriminatory and non-derogatory language in relation to students with disabilities.
- 3.6 Any student with disability residing on campus who must employ a personal attendant can only employ another student.

#### **4.0 Learning, Teaching and Assessment Practices**

- 4.1 Although the University is committed to assisting students with disabilities, all students, including those with disabilities, must accept responsibility for meeting the academic requirements of their educational programmes.
- 4.2 Students with disabilities who may require equipment not already provided by the University are expected to provide their own.
- 4.3 Test proctoring shall be available for students who as determined by the University need to take their tests/examinations outside the normal classroom setting due to disability related limitations.
- 4.4 The University shall endeavor to schedule lectures, workshop sessions and tutorials for courses in which students with disabilities are enrolled at times appropriately spaced to enable students with mobility impairments time to get to the next scheduled activity.

#### **5.0 The Disability Support Service**

- 5.1 A Disability Support Service (“the service”) is available to assist students with disabilities achieve their goals and to foster an understanding towards students with disabilities among members of the University and external community.
- 5.2 Students who wish to be considered for disability support by the University are requested to disclose the special requirements of the condition as early as possible.

- 5.3 The service shall ensure that students with disabilities receive priority for on-campus accommodation and that parking is available.
- 5.4 The service shall provide training and guidance to staff on techniques and approaches useful for the teaching of students with disabilities.
- 5.5 The service shall take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of students with disabilities during campus emergencies such as fires.
- 5.6 The service shall assist the University in providing career advisory services and facilitate access to training and placement opportunities, which will enable its students, and graduates with disabilities in making career choices and develop appropriate work skills.
- 5.7 The service shall assist the University to develop strategies to take full advantage of any funding by the government and other agencies aimed at enhancing learning and employment opportunities for students.

**6.0 Advisory Committee**

There shall be a Student Disability Advisory Committee which shall be appointed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. The Committee shall have five members comprising of a Chairperson, the Manager, Disability Support Services, one Academic Staff member, one Support Staff member and a student.