UC Policy on Accessibility in the Electronic Environment

- Draft guidelines for accessibility of: "administrative functions and services, courses of instruction, departmental programs, and University-sponsored activities."

- Section 508 recognized as: "a community standard within public higher education in California."

- Web designers "encouraged to go beyond those standards whenever possible."

- Requires formation of oversight committee to create implementation strategy in the following areas, leaving wide latitude to the individual campuses. (We may request the addition of more specific guidance in the final document.):
  - criteria for successful deployment
  - evaluation of current Web sites and applications
  - prioritization of Web sites and applications for policy implementation
  - a timeline to meet each phase
  - a procurement process for vendor-provided resources
  - a communication strategy
  - training opportunities
  - acquisition of evaluation tools
  - criteria and procedures for oversight
    - The campus oversight committee should establish procedures for (1) evaluating unsuccessful efforts to achieve accessibility, (2) providing equally effective alternate form of access, and/or (3) determining when compliance would constitute an undue burden.

- Creates timeline to achieve accessibility:
  - Phase 1 – [one year from issuance of the Policy]: all new and updated Web sites, all new vendor-provided Web-based applications
  - Phase 2 – [two years from issuance of the Policy]: departmental Web sites offering information on department mission, programs, and activities
  - Phase 3 – [three years from issuance of the Policy]: all enterprise administrative Web sites and applications
  - Phase 4 – [four years from issuance of the Policy]: all instructional Web sites, including online courses, that provide technology resources for instruction
  - Phase 5 – [five years from issuance of the Policy]: all online resources

Comments on this initial draft are due by October 26, 2007. DCP is collecting comments to include in a response document from the Office of Information Technology (send e-mail to: burke@ucla.edu). Comments may also be sent to: elecaccess@ucop.edu

References:
- Section 508: http://www.section508.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Content&ID=12
- Source documents at: "Web Accessibility at the University of California": http://www.ucop.edu/irc/itaccessibility/welcome.html
- UC Web Design Resources: http://www.ucop.edu/irc/itaccessibility/resources/