Resolution 2009- College Policy

WHEREAS: The Michigan Commission for the Blind has undertaken to formulate an updated policy on services to college students, and;

Whereas: The draft forwarded from the College Policy Committee was anti, blind, Anti-consumer, mean-spirited and paternalistic, and;

WHEREAS: To their credit, The Commission Board rejected the draft policy and undertook to redraft a improved proposed policy, and;

WHEREAS: The new committee is seeking input, ;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in convention assembled, this 8th day of November, in the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan, that this organization provides input and calls upon the Commission Board to assure that the policy that is adopted minimally include the following attributes:

In the Preamble, or some other suitable place, clearly state that the Commission’s goal is to assist blind clients to reach their “maximum” level of independence and self determination as called for in Michigan Public Act 260 of 1978 Sec. 4.(1).

Generally, all time limits should be replaced with language indicating the such arrangements be decided in consultation between the clint and their counselor, including students who change majors.

All policies are to apply uniformly to undergrads and graduate students. Grad students need no separate policy. Services are to be negotiated with the counselor.

Any changes in program and policy agreed to between the college are to be accepted by the Commission.

The Commission may pay for all tests such as GRE’s, LSAT’s, MCAT’s, etc.

The policy will allow for payment of applicationfees for application to colleges.

The policy must, minimally, allow for covering costs of out of state programs at full rate if the program is not offered in the state and at Michigan rates where similar programs are offered in-state.

Study-abroad programs are to be covered where they are a sanctioned part of an approved degree or certificate.

that the best technology available be provided. It is not acceptable to provide the bare minimum and hope the student can be successful.

The Commission must hold all students harmless in cases where the college is not complying with the MOU regarding the college’s responsibility for reasonable accommodations.