MIT Diversity Story Milestone – People with disabilities

1991 – First student group for deaf students, Hands, started by Thomas R. Westcott ’93 and Adam Skwersky ’94 (source: The Tech, 02/22/91)
http://tech.mit.edu/V111/N7/deaf.07n.html


April 1995 – Barbara Roberts named new MIT Disabilities Services Coordinator. Post technically existed prior to Roberts’ hire, but efforts to provide for disabled population at MIT were not centralized (source: The Tech 04/04/95)
http://tech.mit.edu/V115/N15/ada.15n.html

1995-1996 – Efforts to improve access for students (and staff?) with disabilities: translation of course materials into accessible format for students with vision & hearing impairment, repetitive stress injury; provision of interpreters for students with hearing impairment (source: Reports to the President 1995-1996)
http://web.mit.edu/annualreports/pres96/19.html [some efforts had been made previously, but on more ad-hoc basis – see The Tech, 06/26/96, http://tech.mit.edu/V116/N28/letter.28l.html]

(Source: Reports to the President 1996-1997)
http://web.mit.edu/annualreports/pres97/18.0.html#Heading4

1998-1999 – Faculty Resource Series to help faculty understand individual disabilities and enhance classroom learning for the student; formation of working group (DART – Disability and Assessment and Review Team) including Disabilities Services Office, representatives from worker’s comp, benefits, long term disability, and ADA compliance. Aims of working group were to provide training and improve coordination of efforts (source: Reports to the President 1998-1999)
http://web.mit.edu/annualreports/pres99/19.00.html#Heading5


1999-2001 – Americans with Disabilities Act changes to MIT physical environment (Source: Reports to the President 1999-2001)