New Financial Aid rider frightens Fischer

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

More than 85 percent of financial aid offered at Clackamas Community College will be affected by a bill that was passed in September 1982, according to the College's Financial Aid Office.

The bill requires all male students ages 18-23 need to be registered for a potential draft before they are eligible for financial aid. The bill was introduced to help track down non-registrants.

"It uses the college as a police force," Scott Fischer, financial aid officer at the College, said. "We are going to be doing the work of the selective service, which is not a task for an institution.

"The bill is also discriminatory," Fischer said. "It discriminates by sex, age, and college students."

Fischer is not the only person who is upset over the bill, which will take affect next years. Fischer said that there are numerous law suits pending now involved with the bill.

"A law is a law until it is repealed, and we have to abide by it," he said. There are rumors of a repeal, Fischer said, but he feels that Fall term will be here before any action will have been taken.

The bill will not only affect the students who are male and of drafting age, but it will affect every financial aid applicant, Fischer said.

"It will slow down all applications. The time spent on that (confirming students' registration) will slow down the other student's applications," Fischer said. "It is going to create a myriad of problems. We are going to have to comply with it. We have no choice."

The original figures that the federal government released is that 550,000 students will be affected by this law. Fischer sees around 100 students at Clackamas now fall into this category.

"Draft registration is a moral stance each individual student has to take," Fischer said. "If they strongly protest it (the draft), but need financial aid in order to go to school, they are going to have to make a choice."

The problems in clerical work for the financial aid offices begin in the verification of the applicant's registration. The students will have to sign a statement and show their letter of verification from Selective Service.

"If a student has lost his letter of registration he will have to write Selective Service," Fischer said. "This all takes time. In the meantime we will have to withhold their aid."

Another part of the bill that is unclear is the association between the Selective Service and financial aid offices. Fischer says it looks as if the offices will have to identify the students who are not registered to the Department of Education.

The final rules are not written, Fischer said. Once they are written, the financial aid offices have 30 days to approve them.

ALL MALE STUDENTS applying for financial aid, between 18-23, must register for the draft, said Financial Aid Officer Scott Fischer. *Photo by Duane Hiersche*

Les AuCoin calls for repeal of bill

Oregon Congressman Les AuCoin has called for a repeal of a new federal law that would require male college students between the ages of 18-23 to prove their draft registration before being awarded financial aid.

The bill is "redundant and unnecessary," AuCoin said. He called for the repeal of the new bill at a subcommittee meeting Feb. 21.

"I see no logical reason to ask an educator to enforce a law that has nothing to do with a student's academic or financial status and is clearly discriminatory," AuCoin told the Postsecondary Education Subcommittee.

AuCoin said the so-called Soloman Amendment is an attempt to put the burden of enforcement of the controversial draft registration requirement in the hands of the colleges and universities.

"Laws are already on the books to punish those who refuse to register for the draft--laws with teeth," AuCoin said. "Those in Congress who are concerned about non-compliance are attempting to dump their problem onto our colleges and universities, instead of pushing for stricter enforcement or re-evaluation of the registration system."

AuCoin's figures indicate that the hunt for these non-registrants only include less than three percent of the total number of men who are required to register.

Worst of all, AuCoin said, "Congress has declared that only those who need federal assistance to go to college will be compelled by federal laws."

This he stated is, "Plainly discriminatory. The statute makes no effort to reach wealthy college students or students covered by Social Security."

Financial Aid Q&A

A recent Congressional amendment to the Military Selective Service Act (Public Law 97-252) requires that any male who is at least 18 years old and born after 1959 must register with the Selective Service before being eligible for Title IV student financial aid (Pell Grant, SEOG, College Work Study, National Direct Student Loan, Guaranteed Student/plus State Student Incentive Grant Programs).

While there have been many legal questions raised about this issue, the law still exists. At this time, many male students must provide proof of their registration BEFORE they receive any financial aid funds for the 1983-84 school year.

Following are a series of questions and answers for students who may be affected by this law:

Q: Who must register with Selective Service?

A: Men who are at least 18 years old, who were born after December 31, 1959 and who are not currently on active duty with the armed forces must be registered. Members of the Reserves and National Guard must be registered.

Q: Are students who are handicapped or those who have a conscientious objection to military service for moral, ethical or religious reasons exempt from registration?

A: No, by law, *all* young men must register. There are no exemptions even if the student is handicapped or considers himself a conscientious objector.

Q: If I register, will I be drafted?

A: You should be aware that there is *no* draft at the present time. Only an act of Congress could reinstate the draft. Only if Congress reinstated the draft could a man receive a notice to report for examination for miliary service. At that time, you would also receive complete instructions on how to request a postponement, deferment or exemption from military service including a classification as a conscientious objector.

Q: When must I register?

A: You must register within 30 days of your 18th birthday. You may register up to 30 days before you turn 18 years old.

Q: Does the Selective Service accept late registrations?

A: Yes, the Selective Service does accept late registrations.

Q: Where does a student register?

A: You can register at any U.S. Post Office.

Q: How do I register?

A: The registration process takes about five minutes. The student picks up the blue and white Selective Service System Registration and permanent address (if different), telephone number, date of birth and Social Security number. He then hands the Registration Form with some identification such as his driver's license or birth certificate to the postal clerk. After the clerk checks the form to be sure it is readable and complete, the student signs and dates it. The clerk validates the Registration Form with the Post Office cancelation stamp and forwards it to Selective Service.

Q: Do I receive any proof of registration from Selective Service?

A: Yes, you will be sent a copy of the information you filled out on your Selective Service System Registration Form. This is called the *Registration Acknowledgement Letter (SSS Form 3A or 3AS)*. You will *not* receive a draft card. You will be advised by Selective Service in the Acknowledgement Letter that you must keep it as proof of registration.

Q: What if I have a question about registration or lost or did not keep my original Acknowledgement Letter?

A: To receive a copy of your Acknowledgement Letter, you should write a letter including his name, address, date of birth and Social Security number to:

Registration Information Bureau
Selective Service
System National Headquarters
Washington, D.C. 20435

Q: What is the penalty for not registering?

A: In addition to being ineligible for title IV student financial aid, you may be fined $10,000, be put in jail for five years, or both.