

## Student Opinions on Diversity

"The plan is poorly worded and as written accomplishes nothing. Since ours is a college with little or no admissions requirements we will be as diverse as the community around us."

name withheld by request

"It seems that a huge amount of anger has been generated from the introduction of this Diversity Plan, which seems to be contradictory of the goals of the plan. I don't believe that the students concerns have even been listened to as opinions that matter at all."

name withheld by request

"I don't believe that we should accept any federal dollars or grants due to this program. As a federal tax payer I believe that we shouldn't be creating new programs when we continue to pay for the old ones."

name withheld

"I feel it is a waste of taxpayers money to have a diversity program.

"By the time students come to Clackamas they know how to treat

other people. It is very downgrading to have such courses crammed down our throats."

Emma MacRender

"I think students should have been more involved and more informed of the plan before the diversity meeting and I think the administration is the one that needs sensitivity training...when it came our turn (to speak at the Forum) they rarely answered the questions and they didn't seem to listen to us.

"I was cut off when I was asking questions. I think we should have diversity at CCC but I also think we already have it."

Becky Hoggan

"It's vague, and it seems to just be an excuse to hire more "experts" with the taxpayers' money."

Tony Silva

"Sounds like the administration thinks students here are a single group of white hate mongers instead of the diverse group of individuals that the students here are."

Troy Bosch

## Students need to be involved too

by Hoyun Choi  
Staff Writer

The Diversity Plan is an issue of great controversy among the students and faculty of Clackamas Community. Not everybody is going to be happy with one decision. It's just one of those things that is going to be picked at no matter what.

Hopefully now, more of the student body knows what's going on. I was shocked to learn the majority of the students did not even know there was even an effort to put together a diversity plan. This plan is going to effect every student, and they should be informed and encouraged to give the board any input they think will be helpful. The main purpose of the last article on diversity was to inform the students of its existence. So, I hope many of you have had a chance to read it since it was smack dab on the front page.

I personally commend the

board for trying to take some kind of action to make people more aware of diversity and to diversify the college. A big concern of mine, as well as others, is goal number two, part D. This section is suggesting there be established diversity classes which should be required. I believe we have enough required classes as is now. People are rushing to get the required classes out of the way so they can move on to their field of study and/or transfer. This would only slow the students down.

Making these diversity classes mandatory is probably going to make some students even a bit resentful of the whole diversity issue. You can't force people to be diverse and accept it. I think offering diversity classes is a good step, but they shouldn't be required to graduate or receive a transfer degree. It should be there for people who are interested in learning more about diversity

awareness and different cultures. I wish everyone was interested in diversity, but the fact is, they're not. There are many different things that people can learn from other races and cultures, but not everyone is interested and they never may be.

I respect the board for their efforts on such a worthy cause, but in some aspects, they are going about it the wrong way, such as what I have mentioned above. After sitting in on one of their council meetings, I realized that they put a lot of effort and energy into constructing the best plan possible for them and for us.

The issue that must be remembered is that not everyone is ever going to be totally satisfied with any diversity plan. So, I guess all anybody can do is cross their fingers and hope for the best. I hope this plan does make some sort of positive impact on diversity awareness.

## Diversity...

Continued from page 7

put this together. It wasn't done by some one individual or something.

"I don't think there was any special agenda being served by it at least not in my part," he said.

Uris also said it is important to remember, when considering The Plan, that there is a distinct difference between plan and policy.

"There is an important difference. The policy of the institution is to encourage diversity, The Plan is a process by which that policy can be reasonably implemented," he explained.

A frequent student concern regarding The Plan is the goal that calls for the one diversity class requirement for all associate's degrees and certificates.

Crooks shared his concerns about the intended class requirement.

"The other thing that I have a problem with is the required class for the transfer degree. I know that a lot of state four year schools are requiring them for graduation but not everyone who goes here is going to a state school, a lot of people are going to go to private schools."

He went on to say, "It's not so much that I think people are afraid of taking a diversity class or that we fear having other ideas imposed on us... students only have so much time, we usually get our 93 credits to graduate, but if they throw another requirement in there, then it's something else that we can't take.... It fills another slot.

"I know a few of Dr. Epstein's classes fall into that 'diversity category....' Those classes are really good, high quality classes; people want to take them. If you just mandate something like that you can't guarantee the quality.... I think the quality may decline, it may not, but there is the possibility that it will," he explained.

However, Psychology Instructor, Eric Lewis wondered if people realized that CCC was not trying to impose diversity training, but rather make the transition to four-year schools a bit smoother.

"(Some) four-year schools require diversity courses. Do people realize that this is not coming from CCC? They are just trying to stay in line with the four-year

schools. And that's good....

"I'm glad that CCC will identify those classes (that will transfer to meet diversity requirements), but I hope students will not be made to take them here if they don't want to. But either way they are going to have to take it," Lewis explained.

Although many Plan supporters feel that some opposing views are valid, they are concerned with the possibility that the views may be used as a platform for promoting racism.

"There's another kind of concern that I really worry about, which is basically prejudice. 'We're comfortable with the way things are, we don't want any changes.'

over us. Trickle-down P.C. you might call it. I think our collective energies would be better spent elsewhere," he said.

Uris adamantly denies any claim that the planning team kept the deliberations secret.

"The process has been as open as you can have one be. There have been two faculty meetings at which the plan was discussed, there have been three faculty senate meetings at which the plan was discussed, there have been innumerable presidents council meetings at which the plan was discussed, and these were all open meetings.

"There has been one all-school forum which I organized to discuss the plan. There have been requests, and presumably it was carried out, that every department have copies of the plan and that they have a discussion... I understand student government has extensively discussed the plan. So obviously how much more discussion of

a document can you have? Where do you say, 'gee, haven't we talked about this enough?'" Uris explained.

"I can't think of anything that has been as discussed for as long, by as many different groups as this Diversity Plan, for better or worse.

"And I would also point out, we have in our institutional goals and objectives, a commitment towards something very much like this...Diversity is an institutional value," he said.

Painter recognizes the division on campus and takes some responsibility for certain aspects of what people consider a lack of information sharing.

"Somehow we didn't do a very good job of informing all the staff that we had already walked through those (the concerns raised at the forum) issues.

"We hadn't given all staff an opportunity to vent their opinions on it. We thought it was a good cross representation of all staff. Turns out there were a lot more deeper opinions, more deeper feelings out there. I don't know that they were any more complex than what we were dealing with in our core groups.

"I guess the thing that surprised me was the anger that seemed to be there. We got frustrated with our group, but we were always able to come back to center and continue to debate - to keep talking and mov-

ing towards some kind of agreement," Painter explained.

Even with all the open debating and idea exchanging, the reality that a plan will be implemented remains. While the discussion of The Plan has been open to the public, and input is encouraged, the administration has always worked on the premise that eventually The Plan will be installed.

"I think people think they will need to vote on whether or not we're having a diversity plan or not. We don't vote on everything," Wolfson said.

Uris admits that the most current revision of The Plan is tempered compared to other drafts and allows for a lot of personal interpretation.

"I think people project, myself included, a lot of their own views onto this document. The document is so mild that it lends itself to that," said Uris.

Lewis believes that this Plan has the potential to see a positive outcome.

"This Plan is head and shoulders better than the others. It is a good sign that the school will open up public debates for people to share ideas," he said.

Lewis believes that the final effect of the plan will be positive.

"It will be a good, cohesive, effective diversity plan," he added.

Through all the controversy, an interesting paradox has been observed. That although both sides seem to be arguing for the same basic principles, in actuality, the differences between each side's arguments are ironically similar.

"It is another example of how people on opposing sides really think the same way," Crooks said.

Orrelle believes that a good campus atmosphere requires respect of any individual's ideas and attitudes, whether they are agreed upon or not. And lack of involvement and comment on this issue would have been, perhaps, even more detrimental than the vocal participation that we have.

"I want students to be decent and sensitive to the rights and differences of others. I like students who are well-behaved and attentive (most are...passive sometimes to a fault), but I also want them to exhibit passion for ideas and not censor themselves; this involves dissent, argumentation, often enormous conflict, and recognition of irony and paradox in the human condition," Orrelle said.

**"I can't think of anything that has been discussed for as long, by as many different groups as this Diversity Plan...."**

-Joe Uris  
Sociology Instructor