

ASG Constitution should be changed to promote democracy

A little-known clause in the Constitution of the Associated Students of Clackamas Community College reared its ugly head this week. Many students didn't realize that, during the Associated Student Government elections, it was not possible to contest the results of the election.

EDITORIAL

The clause in the constitution reads, "An elections committee shall be established to conduct a hearing upon submission of a written complaint...[A] challenge of the voting process must be filed prior to the beginning of the tallying process" (Section IX - Elections Challenge Process).

In other words, a written challenge to the election must be submitted to the ASG *before the ballot is counted*.

Originally, this was to keep people from contesting the election simply because they disliked the results. Currently, though, the ASG counts the votes immediately after the polls have closed, so there is no opportunity to contest the election.

This year, the ASG advertised that the elections would run until 8 p.m. so that night students could vote. On Tuesday, the ASG closed the ballot boxes early, around 6 p.m.

"We'd been open for about 45 minutes prior to closing down on Tuesday; only two or three people came up to vote," said ASG Vice President Bryan Fuentez.

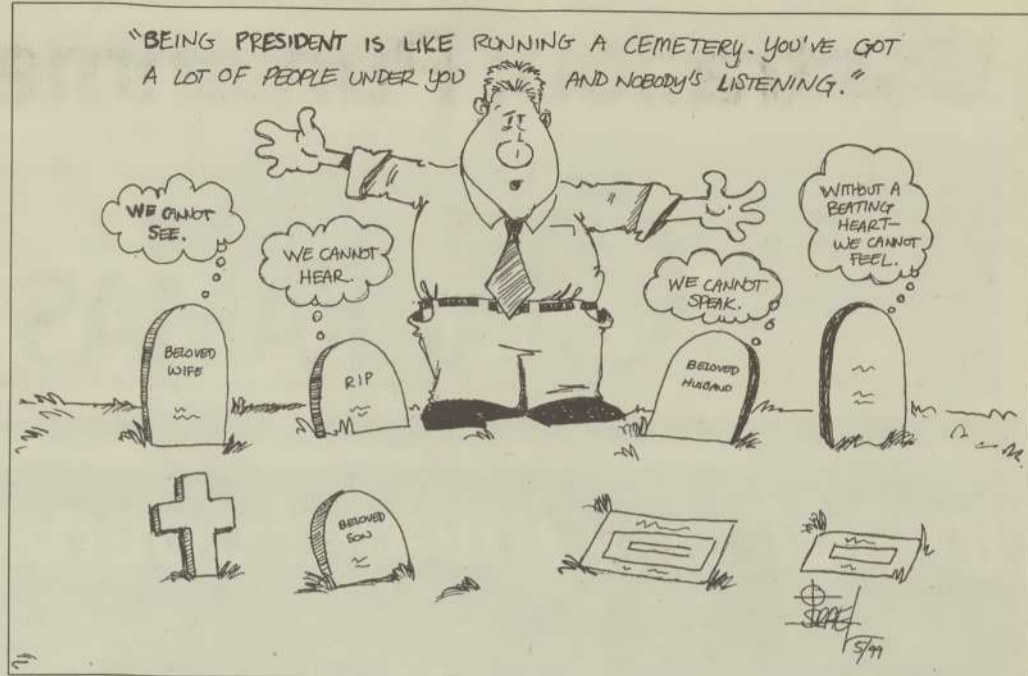
Unfortunately, several night students claimed that they came down to vote during a break in their class. They each stated whom they would have voted for, and they were angry that they were prevented from voting.

While their votes wouldn't have been enough to change the results of the election, these students were deprived of their right to be involved in the democratic process. And who knows—were there more students affected than those who complained?

This raises a question. Should the voting policy be changed? It is the opinion of *The Print* that any policy that prevents students from taking part in a democratic process is fatally flawed. The fact that the ASG didn't stick to its word is also part of the problem.

The ASG must change this policy as soon as practicable. Allow students to contest elections that they believe are flawed as part of the democratic experience, or students will lose faith in democratic processes.

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Exams should be returned before students are trapped

Let me preface this by saying that I don't have any problems with the grades I get. I deserve whatever I've worked for and received.

But I'd still like a way out if I totally flub up.

Unfortunately, when the midterm came back in one of my classes, I discovered that I didn't have a way out.

The college has deadlines for withdrawing from a class. Your last chance to withdraw and get your money back was the end of the second week in the term.

Your last chance to get out of a class without a 'W' on your

transcript was Friday, May 7.

My instructor handed midterm grades back on Monday, May 10.

Oops.

Most of the classes I take

midterm, I should be allowed to drop the class without repercussions, and take the class at a later date.

Unfortunately, the college seems to disagree with me.

Instead of changing the withdrawal deadlines, why can't we change the dates that teachers give midterms? It's currently the teacher's free choice as to when, or if, they give midterms. Many other colleges and universities have established midterm weeks, or at least a deadline for midterms.

Why can't Clackamas have such a system, and why can't we set the dates for midterm evaluations early enough that students would still be able to withdraw afterwards?

This system would require minimal effort on the part of the instructors, teachers, and departments at Clackamas, and would allow students to save themselves from a possibly damaging grade. Why hasn't it been instituted already?

TO BE IN A PERFECT WORLD

KARL KATZKE
Associate Editor



don't have a lot of tests or other measurements of learning before the midterm. There's no way to find out if I'm actually learning the material in the class, or if I'm just taking up space and the subject is flying over my head.

Since I had no evaluation before the midterm, and I didn't find out that I was totally missing the point of the class until after the

Coming Soon...

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NO FEE FOR PHONE REGISTRATION

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9 a.m.—4 p.m. Friday

Open registration begins July 13

View the Schedule online: www.clackamas.cc.or.us

*Fall Classes
Begin September 20*

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