

Crisis in leadership

Deans ask president to step down; 5 reasons cited

Sam Krause
Katie Wilson
The Clackamas Print

The college deans sent President Joe Johnson a letter on Sept. 12 asking him to step down; late last week, he responded.

Johnson responded that anything affecting my employment status was something I would work with the board. The Board of Education, he said.

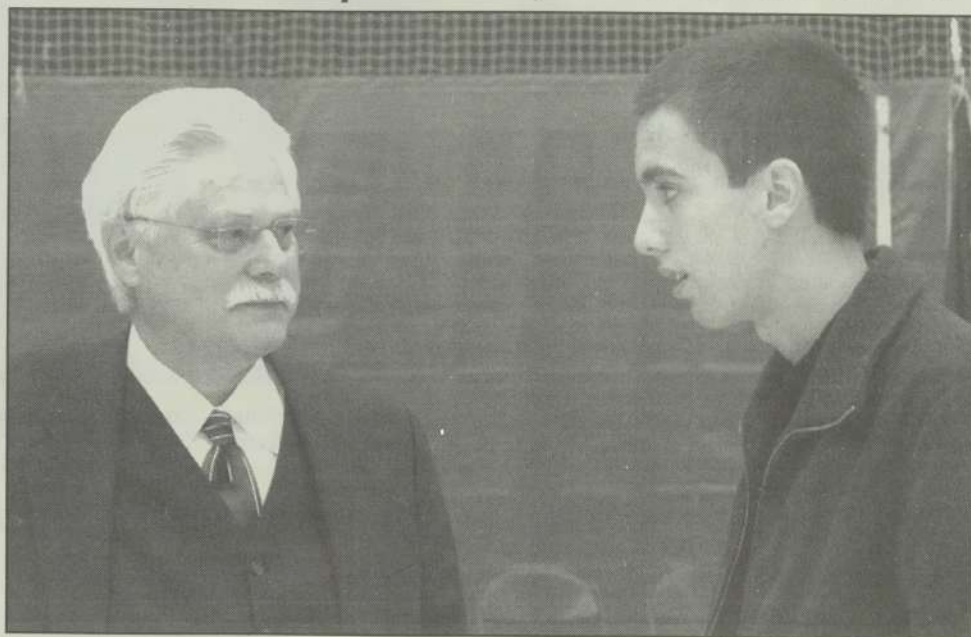
At this time, Johnson says he has not yet discussed his employment with the board.

The *Print* was told that the letter actually came after the deans had verbally asked Johnson to step down by the end of the year. He said that he had not. The deans then put their request in writing and took it to Johnson for his signature. He signed it.

The letter, dated Sept. 12, outlined five reasons for asking Johnson to step down. The *Print* could not get a copy of the letter, but was informed as to its contents

"And one day, people are happy and one day they're having some concerns."

Joe Johnson
College President



Adam J. Manley Clackamas Print

Joe Johnson, college president, and Tim Lussier, ASG president, discuss campus issues following Johnson's State of the College Address at in-service.

by various faculty members.

The five points addressed by the deans are:

- 1) The departure of two vice presidents just before the beginning of the school year and the accreditation visit.
- 2) The fact that the president has placed the college at risk on a number of levels by inappropriate actions and remarks.
- 3) Concerns in regard to his integrity, truthfulness and honesty.
- 4) His ineffective leadership.
- 5) The deans' lack of confidence in his ability to lead the college forward.

Last Friday, *The Print's* Co-Editors, Sam Krause and Katie Wilson, interviewed Johnson. They spoke with him about the letter, the investigation and the allegations against him. What follows is the part of the interview concerning the deans' letter.

The Print: Back on Sept. 12, the deans wrote a letter and sent it to you, which named five reasons why they wanted you to step down. What were those five reasons?

Johnson: I don't remember.

The Print: You don't remember—

Johnson: I don't remember.

The Print: Did you have the

letter?

Johnson: I had the letter, but I only glanced at it for a second.

The Print: Bu—

Johnson: It arrived at a meeting. I saw it and . . . and I think I just glanced at it and was . . . I do not remember.

The Print: All right. So your deans are asking you to step down. You don't remember the exact wording of the letter?

Johnson: I definitely do not.

The Print: How are you planning on responding to it? Or are you planning on responding to it?

Please see DEANS, Page 2

College faced with complex situation

Katie Wilson
The Clackamas Print

Summer at Clackamas Community College: President Joe Johnson has undergone an investigation, Dian Connett, vice president of instructional and student services, is on leave until Oct. 23, Ron Stewart, vice president of campus services, has resigned, and accreditation is next week.

According to Johnson, the vice presidents brought allegations to his attention. He then reported these to the board. The allegations included misuse of his college computer for the viewing of inappropriate web sites and the sending of inappropriate e-mails.

Following an investigation by the college board, Johnson was cleared of the allegations. In the course of the investigation, Connett went on extended leave and Stewart resigned. Bill Dierdorff now fills Stewart's vice president position.

When all of this information first came to the attention of *The Print*, an executive session of the college board was held on Sept. 13. Co-Editor Sam Krause attended the meeting, as did an *Oregonian* reporter. A small story appeared in the Metro section of the Sept. 15 *Oregonian*. (Please see page 3 for full text)

On Sept. 12, the college deans penned a letter to Johnson, asking him to step down, listing five reasons why they wanted him to. Dave Arter, full-time faculty association president, read the letter at a faculty meeting.

Johnson received the letter. He responded late last week, according to Dean of Enrollment Diane Drebin, stating that any question of him continuing as president, or not continuing as president, was between him and the Board of Education.

A Climate Commission has been organized to survey the entire college.

Stewart and Johnson were available for interviews. Dian Connett gave *The Print* this statement yesterday: "I'm not up to answering any questions at this time. I'm at home trying to take care of myself, and that's my first priority."

"I hope that all parties involved will reserve judgment until the [Climate] commission has time to come out with its information," said Tim Lussier, president of ASG. "My duty is to remind everyone that this college has always done a great job serving students' needs, and we must continue to do so."

Stewart has taken a position with the North Clackamas School District.

Currently, Johnson states that he has not met with the board to discuss his position as president.

Anxieties, concerns addressed at in-service

Sam Krause
The Clackamas Print

A room full of anxious staff, President Joe Johnson read his State of the College address at last Tuesday's in-service.

"At this time there are still many questions and concerns that need to be dealt with."

Robby Robinson
Health/PE Instructor

job; Stewart's position has been filled by Interim Vice President Bill Dierdorff.

"It's certainly been a trying time for all of us," Johnson told the assembled college staff. "The vast majority of this institution is on target, and you have the assurance of the board that we can handle it," Johnson said.

Then Johnson made remarks about the impending accreditation visit.

"There has never been, and will never be, a finer document than this document," Johnson said. Connett was a chief author of the accreditation document.

Please see IN-SERVICE, Page 4

Faculty to meet with Johnson

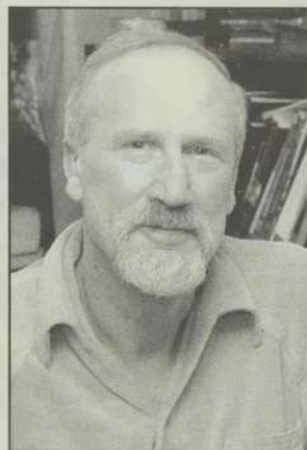
Laura Cameron
The Clackamas Print

The faculty of Clackamas Community College will be meeting with President Joe Johnson on Thurs., Oct. 5, to discuss their concerns.

"He (Johnson) offered, when he gave his speech at in-service, to meet with any group who wanted to talk with him," said Faculty President Dave Arter. "The faculty took him up on that offer." Arter added that "opinions are quite diverse" about Johnson.

"Something's been going on for a while," Counseling Department Co-Chair Bill Zuelke said. "And what I see is this: [Johnson] is not doing [his] job. The circumstances we are in are some evidence that it's not working, and I don't see [him] doing anything to fix it."

The faculty met twice to discuss the situation among themselves, on Sept. 18 and 21. The following is an interview with Faculty Vice President Kate



ARTER

Gray.

The Print: "What was the outcome of the faculty meeting Thursday morning? Did you decide to side with the deans who are asking Joe Johnson to step down, or did you decide to be more neutral?"

Gray: "D, none of the above."

Please see FACULTY, Page 3