

Staff Poll: What were your impressions of President Johnson's speech at in-service?



"I can give you one word, it was 'surprising.'"

Brian Rose
Music Instructor

"I think [Joe] did his best to put a positive spin on the challenges the college is facing."



Alice Lewis
Speech Instructor



"I think [Joe] was obviously very cautious. He was trying to divert focus from himself by pointing fingers at other groups; it was painful."

Doug Cross
Computer Science Instructor

"It was rather confusing."



Jean Arndt
Perkins and Emergency Loans Specialist



"...In light of what's going on, Joe had a very daunting task. He had to bring the moral fiber up, and he had to speak plainly. What he did was hit us right between the eyes with reality."

Kelly Brennan
Speech Instructor

Compiled by Elizabeth Hitz & Laura Cameron

Climate Commission formed

Matt Olson
The Clackamas Print

The college board recently asked for a new committee to conduct a climate survey that will assess concerns regarding both leadership and campus communications. The committee was created in light of recent events within upper management and the political system of the college.

The committee consists of three college board members: Charles Clemans, Judy Irvin and Jean Bidstrup; the four presidents of the associations: Dave Arter, Dean Walch, Rosemary Teeter and Anne Donelson; the student body president Tim Lussier and Dean of Community Education Theresa Tuffli.

"Our goal is to direct a climate survey of the college," said Full-Time Faculty President Arter. "We are not going to conduct this survey ourselves."

Vicki Willis, a consultant from Chemeketa Community College, was hired to administer the survey, either through individual interviews, group interviews or a campus-wide survey.

"We need to get a better fix on how people talk to each other on campus," said Board Member Clemans. "The time is right for us to seek the opinion of staff and perhaps students about how this college communicates and makes decisions."

"We are a very unique institution in that we have this collaborative, decentralized model of government," said Part-Time Faculty President Teeter.

"The college is in a position for large growth, and we need leadership and communication to handle that," said College Board Member Bidstrup.

"There were opposing views and agendas that were not resolved," said Arter. "The reason [the committee] was created is because we had a sudden shakeup in upper management."

"I think the concerns of the faculty

will have adequate chances to be aired," said Clemans.

The committee is designed to have a variety of perspectives and address all issues presented by the Executive Counsel, the Presidents Counsel, the College Board, the deans and all other faculty.

"[It's] important to show that all areas are represented," said Tuffli.

"We are trying to resolve the issues involved here in such a way

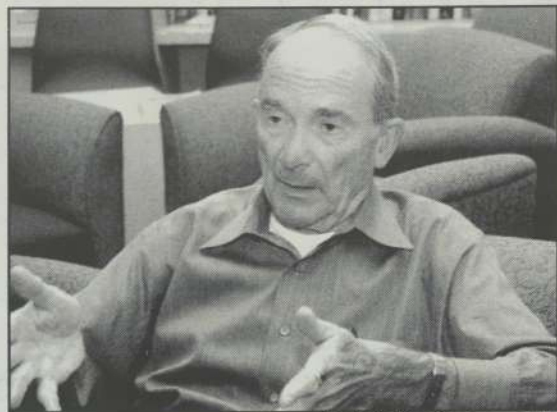
that the college suffers no harm," said Arter.

The possible outcomes of the survey are wide and speculative. Whether there are simple procedural adjustments or personnel changes is yet to be seen. "We're taking serious action, and there may be serious results," said Teeter.

"My personal view is that the college is not threatened by these issues," Arter said, emphasizing that the survey will not affect accreditation.

"We have students to serve, and that's a number one priority," said Teeter.

Though the process is going swiftly, the committee was only recently established on Sept. 13, and met on Sept. 19 to decide on the goals and procedures. They met again yesterday to decide on a consultant and procedures. The next step is to collect the data and find the answers to these important questions.



Elizabeth Hitz Clackamas Print

Chair Charles Clemans explains the charge of the Climate Commission.

DEANS: Johnson says decision is up to board

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The Print: Accreditation is coming in two weeks, the deans' letter came. When are you planning on responding to it?

Johnson: [Long silence] Well, I'm not sure what I'm supposed to respond to... I guess I'm a little confused at what you're asking.

The Print: Okay. Maybe I'm not understanding this correctly. It just seems kind of interesting to me that you would get this letter from the deans—and we do know that they've asked you to step down—and yet you don't remember what the letter said, and you don't know how you're planning on responding to it or even when?

Johnson: No, no, no. I told you just how I was... how I would respond to any letter, and that is that the issue of whether or not I am president or not president is an issue between myself and the Board of Education, not between myself and the deans.

The Print: What do you want [the college community] to be knowing about this? What do you want them to

be thinking about this whole situation right now? What do you want them to know about you in the middle of all this?

Johnson: I feel, I feel that the college is in very good shape and we have been financially strong, and that we are planning ahead and that we have an accreditation study coming up that is very meaningful... we're moving forward.

The Print: To go back to this letter, but you said the decision was between you and the board, okay? Have there been any discussions between you and the board about what has occurred?

Johnson: That's between me and the board.

The Print: I've heard a lot of discussion about "The Clackamas Way"... I'm not sure, do you know what they mean by that?

Johnson: [Laughs] I think it means... I think it means openness and honesty, and sharing. And I think we've done an excellent job of doing that.

The Print: It seems like, from this letter that the deans have sent, that they feel like you don't act that way? Maybe you could clarify that for me?

Johnson: They... they didn't sit down and list off a bunch of things to me.

The Print: Okay. How do you feel your management has been at this college?

Johnson: I think we have had an excellent five years. I think it's been superb, and I think it's going to be a great year.

The Print: Okay. So in light of these great five years, why would your deans come and say that they—

Johnson: I g—
The Print: — they are concerned about—

Johnson: I guess that's something you'll have to ask them.

The Print: Okay. Do you have any idea why they would say that... just coming out of the blue?

Johnson: You'll have to ask them. It... [laughs]... two weeks ago, I was great with them.

The Print: So my question is then, lots of the faculty right now are a little confused. They don't quite know what's been going on the last two weeks. What would you say to them?

Johnson: I would... you know... if you come in here in the sense of,

which I think you should be here... you've asked the questions that you should ask, but, in truth, the on-one communication, or the communication is so very important. So I've talked to Dave Arter, the head of the faculty... I would be glad to chat and answer any questions.

And I think we have to face the fact that [on a college campus] rumors are going to have rumors pop up, that's part of life, and right now everyone is very sensitive about that, but that once we can get back in school, once we can have open forums, there's a dialogue... people [can know] we're headed in the right direction.

The Print: Would you be available at all next week?

Johnson: Of course. My door is open. I mean, I'm not running or going anywhere. I'm right here. I'll answer any questions. You know there's an open pipeline to the board in the sense of they're going to do a complete campus evaluation of me. Here I am. I'm the same person I was a month ago. And, one day people are happy and one day they're asking some concerns. So I'd be glad to answer questions.

