

Stewart leaves after four weeks at Clackamas

Katie Wilson
The Clackamas Print

Newly-hired Vice President of College Services Ron Stewart has resigned after four weeks of working at the college.

Bill Dierdorff, former retired Business Manager from the North Clackamas School District, has been brought on as an interim vice president in Stewart's position.

"In the beginning, it was a letter he gave to the board indicating that he intended to resign," said College President Joe Johnson about Stewart's resignation, "and we were all trying to talk him out of it. And then afterward, it became quite clear that he was planning on moving on."

Stewart's resignation came in the midst of the

investigation of Johnson and the absence of Dian Connett, vice president of instructional and student services.

He has accepted the position of executive director of facilities and transportation for the North Clackamas School District.

In a letter to the college, Stewart stated that in some ways Clackamas had been a good fit, and in other ways it had not been a good fit.

"Some of that's hard to describe," he said to *The Print*. "In probably more ways it was a good fit in talking about a great mission, a great place to work, great culture and, really, great people. The fit is more about...me and relationships and communication styles, and leadership styles."

He assured the campus that his resignation had nothing to do with anything other than

the conditions created by the investigation.

"I want to be a person of integrity and a person of honesty," he said. "I want to be held accountable for that, and I also want to have open, honest, transparent communication in decision-making."

"The conditions surrounding the investigation, for me, didn't lend itself to be open and honest and transparent," he added. "... And this is during your first days on the job, when you want to build relationships, communication and trust."

There have been a few rumors that Stewart's resignation was because of Johnson's leadership style.

"That's often a question asked: 'Is this about Johnson?'" he said. "I've told everyone that I can see that

my decision to leave is not about Joe Johnson or Dian Connett or any other...It's more complex. Joe Johnson versus Ron Stewart? No. The conditions around the investigation impacted, I felt, our relationships...I felt it impacted relationships."

"I was looking forward to working under [Johnson] and learning from him," he said.

Concerning the whole campus situation, Stewart said, "It's a little bit more complex...usually you can zero in on something and everyone's trying to zero in on something; it's this person or that person or it's the investigation. Each person you talk to, whether inside or outside, will have a different perspective. And all those perspectives are potentially accurate. So what do you do?"



Stewart

The following is a list of deans who signed the letter to Johnson asking him to step down

- Deans:
- Donna Acord – Dean of the Extended Learning Services
 - Debra Austin – Dean of Information Technology Services Division
 - William Briare – Dean of Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences
 - Deane Dreblin – Dean of Student and Enrollment Division
 - Debbie Parini-Ringe – Dean of College Advancement
 - Robert Giltz – Dean of the Technical Career Education Division
 - John Godfrey – Dean of the Student Services
 - William Leach – Dean of College Services
 - Chris Robuck – Dean/Controller of the Business Office
 - Theresa Tuffli – Dean of Community Education/ Energy & Resource Management/Utility Alliance
 - Edwin van der Bijl – Associate Dean of the Allied Health/Math/Science

FACULTY: Gray says faculty not 'particularly passive'

Continued from front page:

Gray: The faculty would like to support the process that has already started, and we are interested in doing our own investigation into the issue. We don't want to rush into any position."

The Print: "What role or power does the faculty have in this situation?"

Gray: "Generally, the board hires a president and the faculty fires a president – that's sort of the saying. The power of this faculty, I think, is its critical thinking and its compassion. Our power is our diversity."

The Print: "How will this situation and your decision affect the students?"

Gray: "I'm hoping it doesn't

affect the students. The faculty is still just as strong, just as eager and just as giving as ever. Everyone is looking forward to having the students here and just getting back to doing what we love."

The Print: "Do you have a sense of where the faculty is headed in all this? Is there a general direction they're heading in, or are they just going to sit back and take it as it comes?"

Gray: "They're not going to just take it as it comes, no. I think the faculty will ask terrific questions about where we are now and where we're going, and they're going to act on what they find out. I've never known this faculty to be particularly passive."

This article was printed in the Sept. 15 edition of *The Oregonian*:

Report clears president of CCC improprieties

An outside investigation into rumors that Clackamas Community College President Joe Johnson used a school computer to view inappropriate web sites and send inappropriate e-mails found that he did nothing wrong.

The college's Board of Education ordered the investigation in July and made a summary of the results public Sept. 13 because members thought nothing but an objective review would clear the air, board member Chuck Clemans said.

No formal complaint was filed.

The investigation by labor and employment attorney Paula A. Barran found "no evidence that the president had engaged in sending inappropriate e-mails. The forensic examination of the hard drive from the president's computer confirmed that the computer had not been used for viewing inappropriate web sites."

Print: News Gathering proves team effort

It's been a hectic time for the college and staff members of *The Clackamas Print*. Gathering news stories of this proportion on a small campus such as ours can be trying.

The executive session that was called to discuss allegations against Joe Johnson is a prime example.

The Print was originally not going to be admitted into the executive session as advised by the college's general counsel. The lawyers claimed that *The Print* staff is not a member of the press.

However, *The Print* staff members are reporters of the news, and we are entitled to admittance into executive sessions. Oregon's Public Meetings Laws provide this entitlement.

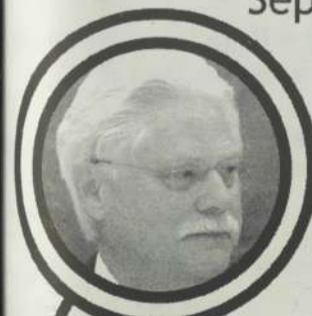
Additionally, *The Print* had difficulties with deans not wanting to speak on the record, Dian Connett being on leave and all but unavailable, and the faculty not knowing the current status of the executive team.

We had to exercise our journalistic muscle.

- Sam Krause, Co-Editor-in-Chief

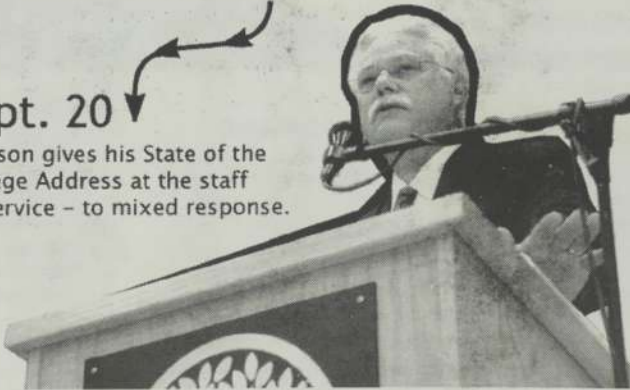
Sept. 13

In an independent investigation ordered by the college board, Johnson is cleared of any wrongdoing. A "climate survey" is established to survey the thoughts and feelings of the campus community.



Sept. 20

Johnson gives his State of the College Address at the staff in-service – to mixed response.



Sept. 21

In a faculty meeting, a spirited discussion results in no decision by the faculty regarding support of the deans' letter.



Oct. 10

A college-wide accreditation visit occurs, lasting until Oct. 13.