

The Clackamas Print

Event Highlight

ASG Meet and Greet
Thursday April 30
Community Center
room 127 from noon-
1 p.m.

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College banks \$22,250 in late registration fees

Mark Sunderland

The Clackamas Print

The economic crisis has hit more than the local businesses, even striking at our future generations. The lack of funding for schools has brought back some old skeletons from the past. One such skeleton is the late registration fee, which made its first appearance in the early 1960s.

Students may fear that the school is just going to suck them dry of what little income they already have, but Tara Sprehe from the registrar office, said, "So, this was not about making money. I think it's important for students to know that, because the college is in difficult time. But, this was something that was re-implemented to help students, really."

It may seem unfair and just a money grubbing tactic, but Sprehe's words say otherwise. We saw longer lines the first week of the term, which we don't usually see until the end."

Sprehe said the reports she's getting from the various school departments about rosters being up to date and accurate, just proves the truth behind the seemingly low-handed late fee.

The more accurate the rosters for classes are, the fewer the classes that have to be canceled and thus more options for the students. An issue with people not registering is that a student may have to tell a teacher that his or her class is canceled due to a lack of registered students, when the instructor clearly sees more than enough students in class. It creates a problem for both the students who need the class and the instructor when they find that the class is suddenly canceled.

Greg Stein, a student at Clackamas Community College, said, "I think actually it's encouraged people to be more on time about getting their schedule together. It's probably a good thing cause a lot of people usually wait until the last minute and then it's hard for them to keep track of what classes are going to be cancelled. So, I think it's kind of encouraging people to be smarter with their time."

The late fee may bite into a struggling student's budget, but one might want to consider the economic peril we face as Frank Mickel, another student, said, "I mean it hurts them, but with the economy and the school's cuts, they're lucky to still have a school. So, if they were to charge us a bit more to get to school, it's worth it."

It doesn't dissuade one's fear of having to pay a late fee though, even if students understand. There is still the worry that one might not be able to take a class because of the late fee or what happens when they cancel a class.

Nikki Spencer ran into the issue when they canceled one of her P.E. courses. They didn't charge her the late fee, much to her relief, but she understands the work that happens when one registers late. "If you're registering late it makes more paperwork for the financial aid office. It's not very organized if everyone's coming in late and registering. I think it's a reasonable rule."

"So we have taken in \$76,950, but we've waived off \$54,700 so there are lots of exceptions to the late registration fee. So, sometimes what we're doing is when a bunch of registrations come in, we process it and take the \$50 off. So we have only netted \$22,250 from the late registration fee," Sprehe said, when asked about the financial analysis.

So, with the school waving the fee in certain cases and late spring classes, there are plenty of options for a student to continue their education without the fear of having to pay the late fee.

At least we're recycling...



John Hurlburt Clackamas Print

Last Tuesday 18 boxes of new computer paper fill a recycling bin near McLoughlin Hall. The source of the discarded paper is unknown, but the wasted paper would have cost \$2357.82 according to Officemax.com.

Part-timers experience shadowed losses

John Hurlburt

News Editor

Many part-time faculty members throughout campus have been experiencing a full-time problem, as the average number of hours they work has either dropped or been reduced to zero, in the category 5 storm of budget woes striking at the core of Clackamas.

In a survey sent out to all of Clackamas' part-time faculty members by the Part-Time Faculty Association (PTFA), it was discovered that out of the 73 people who responded to the survey, 26 percent said they had less work than in spring 2008 and 15 percent said they had no work compared to spring 2008.

PTFA President Rosemary Teetor knows that budget cuts are the reason behind the slump, but said that the problem of diminished hours isn't apparent in the school's budget.

"There is an impact to part-time faculty from mid-year budget cuts that are virtually invisible unless you are a part-timer," said Teetor.

Part-time faculty cuts don't show up like the 20 full-time positions that were removed by Clackamas administrators during the recent budget slashes. Instead, since part timers are hired at the department level and not by human resources (HR), part-time faculty numbers are not kept on the books in HR, according to Jan Godfrey, Clackamas vice president.

Godfrey commented that by sending out the survey the PTFA were "trying to figure out what the impact of the budget reductions were for all of Clackamas."

Teetor said that the cuts were definitely noticeable to those who were employed as part-timers. During fall term, CCC boasted a squad of about 350 part-timers supplementing full-time faculty on campus. Now during spring term that number is down to about 305.

Scott Giltz, Dean of the Technical Career Education Division and a former part-time member himself, sees part-time faculty mem-

bers as an indispensable part of the college for a variety of reasons.

"They're incredibly valuable," Giltz said. "Part-timers bring the most relative and up to date trends into the classroom."

Many part-timers in Giltz's department hold jobs outside of the college and this allows them to bring what is going on in the real world into the classroom. Without them, he believes that there is "no way" his department could offer the same level of education without them.

"We have many programs offered only because of part-time staff," Giltz commented.

Another advantage, according to Giltz, to having part-time faculty members working for the college is that it allows the college to get a presence in outside corporations and build mutually beneficial partnerships.

Teetor said that a part-timer is anyone who has not been formally hired full-time. At Clackamas, this means that part-timers can work the equivalent of full-time but without

the advantage of full-time benefits. This is almost unique to CCC, many colleges don't let part-timers work more than a certain number of hours.

Although these freelancing teachers are beneficial to the college, their situation can seem unfair, Teetor mentioned.

"There's an inherent unfairness in the whole part-time faculty situation," Teetor said, emphasizing that it's not just at Clackamas but at all colleges.

Much in the way grease fills the spaces between bearings, letting a wheel turn smoothly, part-time faculty fill the gaps in curriculum without the school having to hire full-time employees.

"We are the budget balancers," Teetor expressed.

At Clackamas, part-timers have worked up to 30 years and some also work equivalent hours as full-time instructors but without the benefits. Even with this much service, they have not been offered an official full-time position.

"If there were an option to be hired on full-time, I think half to two-thirds of my people would take it," Teetor expressed, adding logically, "You get benefits!"

Giltz views the situation a little differently.

"I guess it depends on your perspective. I always knew there were no guarantees as part-time staff," Giltz acknowledged. "Sometimes it seems unfair ... but that's the gig you sign up for."

Although there are downsides to being a free-lance instructor, upsides are to be found in the status.

"It's the flexibility that's attractive to them," Giltz said about part-timers in his department.

Whether or not the part-time instructor situation is fair or not, Giltz acknowledges their value.

"I don't really know how much I can emphasize how valuable they are to our division," Giltz expressed with gratitude.



John Shufelt Clackamas Print

Part-timer Tim Pantages helps student Brett Sanchez.