

Instructors compete for positions



Matt Ostergren Clackamas

Stefan Baratto, chair of the math department, and Carrie Kyser, instructor, present their needs at the faculty forum on Friday Feb. 19. The math department is requesting two full-time positions alone. The college can only promise two total positions.

By Abigail Neet
News Editor

The demand is high and the resources are few.

This is the theme for the faculty here at Clackamas.

Friday Feb. 19 a faculty discussion was held in Gregory Forum. The forum was a place for different departments to present their needs for full-time positions to the administration as well as hear the needs of other departments.

The total number of positions requested was 11.

The requests are caused mainly by retirements and people moving on.

Elizabeth Lundy, vice president of instructional services, said that the college is comfortable with filling two of the positions and that it really depends on how much the college is willing to risk.

The executive team, President Joanne Truesdell, Vice President Courtney Wilton and Lundy will make the recommendation to the President's Council.

Lundy said, as of Feb. 26, the executive team had not met to discuss the recommendations but would most likely present March 3, to President's Council.

"All needs are valid and critical," Lundy said.

Lundy also said the positions will be filled in areas where there is no other option but to hire a full timer and that most people drew the same conclusion.

Prior to the forum, departments were asked to fill out a position opening request which had 11 questions demonstrating their need, and that information was made available online for others to see as well as presented during the forum.

Questions ranged from financial impact on the college to how it will increase student Full Time Enrollment and impact on workload by not filling position.

Question and answer time was also available for each department during the forum.

At the forum, faculty were asked to fill out a form responding to the department presentations and rank the need for

a position from high, medium or low and were also asked to explain why a priority level was chosen.

The department of the person filling out the form was also requested, according to Lundy, so they would know if the majority of a department supported a certain position request.

Lundy said between 325 and 350 were turned in.

The forms also asked for suggestions on how to fill the need that would not require hiring another full timer.

"What stood out the most to me was while everyone had a need, they were very supportive of their support and professionalism," said Eric Lewis, faculty president and social science instructor.

"Feedback from the forum was very thoughtful, and the areas of need were very clear," Lundy said.

Kate Gray, English department chair, agreed that the forum was a success.

"There was a great sense of

camaraderie in the room, which surprised me since there is such a great need but doesn't surprise me because of the character of the faculty. Coming away from it made me proud to work with these people," Gray said.

Steffen Moller, dean of business, math and sciences, explained that the science department had a physics instructor retire and the untimely death of Ritch Espino, which is what has contributed to their need.

"It is a good process, everyone had an opportunity to give input and have it taken into consideration," Moller explained. "Every situation is different. There are lots of requests and all are high priority."

Part timers who have taught 510 credit hours and met other minimum qualifications for open positions are automatically interviewed for positions if they apply.

"It's always interesting because until you hear other needs, obviously, the ones you are most familiar with seem the most important," Moller added.

Many departments need positions and according to there are 25 open positions.

"In the past when there were open positions, they went on a regular basis, but when recession hit we went into a hiring freeze. The vacancies were filled with part timers," said.

It is better financially for the college to replace the part time positions with part timers if they do not require benefits as much as full timers.

"One of the first presentations was done by the math department, which showed that students end up actually doing better when taught by a full instructor," Lewis said. "It is not that part timers do good work but that full timers have a bigger investment in the school that benefits the students and full time positions allow faculty to have a more specialized area of expertise."

"Part timers are doing a job, it would be nice for them to get benefits," Lewis added.

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Gresham shooter spoke at CCC

Another tragedy has befallen Clackamas Community College. Guest speaker of the Trauma Intervention Program and Clackamas County sheriff's sergeant, Jeffrey Grahn, shot and killed his wife, her two friends and then himself last month while off duty in Gresham.

For the past seven years, Grahn

was a guest speaker for T.I.P., a non-profit organization of volunteers focused on helping trauma victims cope with their emotions. He specialized in discussing how to successfully work with law enforcement during emergency response. His last presentation was at CCC in January.

Charlotte Grahn did not confirm

domestic abuse allegations, and to the official investigation report conducted by the Portland Police in April 2009. Friends and family of the Grahns speculate that Jeffrey Grahn was too afraid to notify authorities, according to the PPB investigation report.

-Jaime Dunkle

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