

School to vote on surplus

By Brian Baldwin
Associate News Editor

Have you ever sat in front of a computer in a class and thought, "You know this is a really nice computer, I wonder if I can buy it from the college?" Soon you might be able to do just that.

Chris Robuck, Director of Fiscal Services at Clackamas Community College, and Yassamin Alayan, purchasing agent, put forth a motion at the Board of Education meeting on Oct. 13 to amend the college's surplus goods policy. Their motion was postponed since it was the first reading of the motion, and will return to be voted on at the next meeting on Nov. 10. Robuck and Alayan hope to change the policy to allow them to sell the college's surplus goods to the general public.

"As departments define an item as no longer needed, they give it to Campus Services. Campus Services will check within the college to see if anyone has a use for (the item). And if not, it then becomes surplus," said Robuck.

The college is a tax-supported entity, and as such they are subject to state rules regarding purchasing and disposal, according to Robuck. She also said that the college was initially conservative about its policy, and while the environment has changed in recent years, the college is just

now catching up to current times in regards to selling to the general public.

"Right now our purchasing rules say that we dispose of surplus only to other governmental entities or to non-profits," said Robuck. "That's a problem. There are times that we'd like to be able to give students and the general public the opportunity to buy our surplus property."

The two of them hope that with the approval of the policy change, they will be able to sell to individual students wanting to buy equipment from the college, such as computers or possibly old surplus automobiles, or to private companies such as the company that converted the college's old records from spools of microfilm to digital format.

"We always have calls from various entities. As an example, right now we have an ancient microfilm reader. (We) can't use it, (it's) of no use to anyone here on the campus, but low and behold the company that converted our records ... has a use for one of those monsters!" said Robuck.

While it may seem like a convenient deal for the college to sell this microfilm reader to the company since it is an outdated technology and would likely collect dust in some office, the college cannot sell it to them because of the lack of freedom in the purchasing policy.

The motivation behind this motion was not because of more potential profit avenues to sell our surplus to, but because of student interest to buy surplus computers, according to both Alayan and Robuck. The college takes the student technology fee and uses that money to replace aging computers in the school. No one had use for them in the college, so they became surplus. The Business Office hatched a plan to get these computers to students by giving them to ASG to hand out to students.

"So given that our rules didn't address 'How can we sell items to private individuals?' that was the only mechanism we could come up with. The college gifted the computers to the Foundation, and then the Foundation gifted them to ASG, which then created a grant for students," said Robuck.

While the main motivation behind this motion was interest in surplus computers, the school Business Office cannot place student interests at a higher priority than others should their proposal pass the Board of Education.

"Well it's open to the public, so public involves students, companies, basically anyone. It could be an employee, but it has to be fair and equal so that everyone has that opportunity," said Alayan.

But they can try to give students an easier chance to find that opportunity by having their public sale or auction on campus, advertise the event well, have it at a time that is convenient for students, and work with the IT department and ASG to have a reasonable price and get the word about it to students, according to Robuck.

ASG was given 50 computers for their grant, according to ASG President Alyssa Fava. She did not know if the Business Office was going to stop supplying them with surplus computers as grants, should they get the policy amendment that they hope for.

"No, they didn't tell us that plan and no, they have not said that they won't donate to us anymore," said Fava.

If the motion is passed on Nov. 10, the Business Office will immediately adopt the amended policy, but the first public sale date is unknown until Campus Services inventories how much surplus they have to warrant a sale.



John Petty Clackamas Print
This unused vintage microfilm reader rests in the Business Office.



John Petty Clackamas Print
Computer towers are stacked in the ASG office, waiting to be dispersed among students applying for computer grants. See article below for more information.

Used computers up for grabs; students can apply for grants

By Max Dorsey
The Clackamas Print

Don't you love it when you get your first computer? What if you got yours from your school? And what if it was free? Students without computers now have a chance to receive a free desktop computer, thanks to computer grants that are currently available at Clackamas Community College.

Associated Student Government received 50 computers donated to the CCC Foundation by the IT department. ASG is issuing the computers to qualifying students as a way to help out those who cannot afford one of their own. The last time computers were distributed was in 2008, according to Michelle Baker, the student outreach advising specialist.

"The Computer Grant is a partnership with the IT department and student leadership," Baker stated in an e-mail. "Our hope is that we can give away the computers to students who need them. Unfortunately, we can only offer this program as computers are available."

There is no deadline for the computer grant application, according to Baker. But applying sooner is better than later, as they

are distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Alyssa Fava, ASG President, is grateful for the college's support. She stated in an e-mail that she hopes the college donates more computers to assist students in need, to make them work efficiently.

"At the end of the day, our main goal is to make sure the students we serve have everything they need to be a successful student. This is just one more way we can aid in that process," Fava stated in the e-mail.

Fava had the initial idea of what to do with all the donated computers, which the IT and student leadership departments had no real use for.

"We couldn't think of a better use for the computers than to give them out to students who need them," Fava stated. "We are so thankful for the college's support in allowing us to do this."

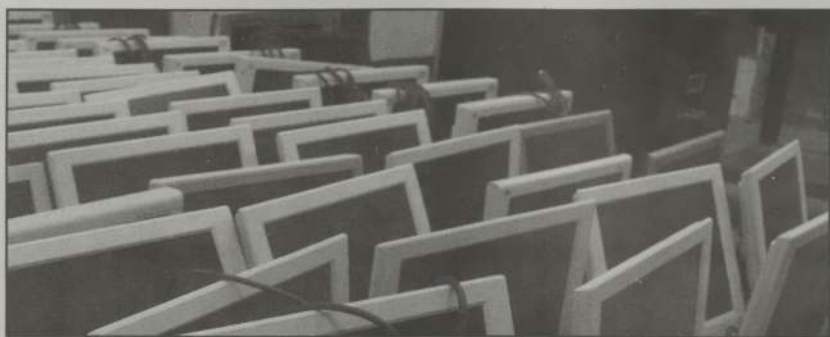
Adam Jefferson, a student who was not aware of the program, said that he would sign up for one now that he knows.

"A free computer is a free computer," he said. "(Although it depends on the computer too, (and) what specs it has."

Another student, Alex Washben, wants to sign up for a computer.

"I'd use it for everyday use, not homework," Washben said.

Students can apply for a computer grant in person at the ASG office, CC 152, the Bill Brod Community Center. Students can also get an application online at depts.clackamas.edu/asg/index.asp.



John Petty Clackamas Print
Rows of computers sit waiting to be used by students who receive grants. Computer grant applications are available at the ASG office and online.

CORRECTIONS

Last week in the article "Budget in decline" a quote attributed to Sean Huggins should have read: "The tuition raises have affected my budget because financial aid has gone down."

In last week's article "Clever costumes collect candy" Rion Criss name was misspelled in the photo caption.

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