

Tuition waivers now under review

By Jaime Dunkle
News Editor

Students may find it challenging to hold down a job while attending college. Paying bills on top of paying for textbooks and tuition can become expensive fast. When financial aid and loans aren't enough to sustain students, they have another option – applying to a tuition waiver program.

Right now the board of education has asked for a review of the various waiver programs available at Clackamas Community College. A tuition waiver is exactly what it sounds like; it covers tuition costs. CCC offers several academic, achievement and talent waivers for qualifying students. State legislation has even mandated waivers for seniors and family members of fallen soldiers. However, some waivers were cut last year.

"At the end of last year, we stopped tuition waivers that were called 'fill-a-seat' vouchers. These were historically shared with some of our business partners for their employees to use for classes that still had empty seats after the class began, Vice President of Instructional Services Elizabeth Lundy stated in an e-mail. "We discontinued it because our classes are very full so there really weren't options to use those anymore."

The administration issued a total of \$785,316 worth of tuition waivers during the 2007-2008 school year and jumped to \$1,070,400 for the 2009-2010 school year. Evaluating existing waivers will determine how many will be distributed in the future. *The Clackamas Print*, Associated Student Government and theater are among the programs that use tuition waivers.

"We would like to document where the waivers are made available, the criteria for being eligible for the waiver, how students or potential students find out about the waivers that are available and how recipients of the waivers are selected," Lundy stated. "This allows us to analyze how they are being used, compare practices in

multiple areas to be sure we are consistent and discuss access and availability."

Drastic budget cuts have instigated the review so that new programs may help students in need and inefficient programs be dropped.

"Part of what we are looking at during a time of budget reductions is where and how we are using them, both from a standpoint of lost tuition, but also from the standpoint of access for students who may otherwise not be able to afford tuition," stated Lundy. "For example, given the state of the economy should there be more focus on financial need as a criteria for awarding tuition waivers?"

This fall was Jami Mehrer's first term at CCC. She is worried about budget cuts interfering with tuition waiver programs.

"What if I applied and I didn't have enough financial aid for the term and my only option to pay for it was through that waiver?" Mehrer said. "What if that was my only way to do it and they cut it? To me, that's not fair."

The board of education is not initiating the waiver review with the intention of eliminating waivers this year, according to Matthew Altman, associate dean of arts and sciences.

The athletic department gave out \$287,951 in tuition waivers last year. The number seems astronomical, but it ties into how the department competes with other colleges. Altman discovered the reasoning for it during the review.

"The athletic conference says that you can have up to this many waivers for your wrestling team, for example, and all the schools that are in that conference, they all have that number of waivers because they are competing with each other and they use those waivers competitively to draw students into their team," Altman said.

The review is focused on how the waivers are functioning within the departments, and Altman encourages student involvement.

"If students are concerned about it, I would encourage them to talk to their (department) chairs about how the waivers are important to the program," Altman said. "It's not so much a 'How are the waivers going to be cut?' conversation going on, as much as a 'How are the waivers working for the program, and how is the program doing?' So they can talk to the chairs and they can talk to the faculty members in their department about what the waivers are used for and how (they) are doing."

Students can even apply for a financial need waiver, if state or federal assistance is not available to them. For more information, contact the financial aid department at finaid@clackamas.edu or go to the Financial Aid office located in Roger Rook.

Largest share of tuition waivers

Program	Amount waived
1. Athletics	\$287,951
2. Employees and dependants	\$170,984
3. Drama and music	\$76,169
4. Skills Day	\$32,146
5. Student Services	\$25,914
6. ASG	\$25,272

Source: Clackamas Community College

Classified staff honored at annual appreciation lunch

By Nathan Sturgess
The Clackamas Print

Have you ever wondered how the grass stays just the right length all year round or how the classrooms ever stay clean even when your instructor lets people eat in the room? Have you ever wondered what magical feats must be accomplished behind that ominous financial aid desk to sort through so much student data and come out victorious with money for your education? These are just a few things that classified staff members do every day in order to serve their community and students at Clackamas Community College.

Every year, CCC puts on a classified staff appreciation event to recognize all the work that these men and women do. This event is celebrated in conjunction with National Educational Support Personnel Day which always falls in November. The event is largely coordinated by college leadership.

Classified staff are the backbone of all the practical functions at CCC. They are the people who sometime work behind the scenes to make college processes work. Others have the sometimes challenging job of interacting with students on a daily basis. They try to bridge the gap between faculty and students needs, and also offer support to college leadership as assistants and secretaries.

"Classified Appreciation is a day to say thank you to (all the classified staff)," said Bill Briare, dean of arts and sciences, who helped organize the event for this year.

Monetary dues contributed by the different staff associations on campus pay for the event, meaning that it isn't financed by any college money, according to Briare.

"It's basically everyone's personal money that they contribute to put on the event," he said.

While some of the money goes into the dessert and decorations, much of it goes into raffle prizes that staff can win. This year, there were several gift cards to local restaurants such as the Lil' Cooperstown Bar and Grill. But some of the most coveted prizes were several photo prints taken by Briare of his recent trip to Africa.

"It's good to have the appreciation shown, and it's especially nice that they're willing to just kind of stop the day for

an hour or so," said Susan Iwata, administrative assistant for college advancement. "No one has to go through all that work of decorating and coming up with all those nice prizes and all that, so it's nice."

At the event, several faculty members stood up and expressed their gratitude for all the support they receive from classified staff in the various areas, which many staff members appreciated.

"I think the classified (staff) do a lot of work and people need to be recognized that they were here. I think it's a good thing," said Kandie Starr, an enrollment services specialist.

When the event ended, all the people there wasted no time in returning to their offices, cubicles and workplaces, ready to take on another term.

"It's a lot of people who come together to say thanks," said Briare.



Nathan Sturgess Clackamas Print

Classified staff members receive appreciation for all their hard work behind the scenes on campus in Gregory Forum on Nov. 17.

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