

College to vote on new health tech degree

By Mandie Gavitt
Associate News Editor

For a college student, today's job market doesn't always look promising. The economy is struggling, which is old news to everyone. If people with 10 times more experience than a student with a two-year degree are having trouble finding jobs, what will there be for us when we graduate college? Well, depending on what you want to do, there actually may be quite a lot.

Clackamas Community College is proposing to offer a new degree. This degree would be called Health Informatics and would help students who want to work on computers in the healthcare field.

According to a handout passed out at the Feb. 9 board meeting, "Health Informatics utilizes computer technology in the advancement of healthcare." It does this by combining computer technology, information science, clinical practice and business management.

The handout also stated that health information technology is one of the 20 fastest-growing job categories in the country. There is an estimated 49 percent growth in demand for administrators, specialists, technicians, consultant, educators and researchers in the field. Thus, there is a wealth of jobs that will need to be filled, and why not have them be filled with Clackamas alum?

According to Debra Carino, department chair of computer sciences and one who proposed Clackamas offer this degree, starting this program will add little or no cost to the college, a refreshing bit of news with budget cuts on the front of many minds.

Carino also stated that this is a state-wide degree in which Portland Community College is the lead. PCC started offering the program in September of 2010. The other colleges offering the program are Chemeketa, Mt. Hood and Umpqua community colleges. The fact that so many close colleges are offering the program helps to lower the cost for our school to begin the

program. This way instead of having to offer new classes for the program, students could take the classes CCC does not have available at one of the other schools, thus helping spread the cost between schools.

"Another exciting aspect of this degree is for students who want to pursue their bachelor's or master's in the field," said Carino.

For most associate's degrees, only 40 to 50 percent of the classes required apply towards the bachelor's or master's degree. Instead, with the Health Informatics degree, 80 to 95 percent of the credits taken will apply, which will make it much easier to move onto a four-year degree. There are also doctorate level degrees in this field.

According to Bill Briare, dean of arts and sciences, students who receive the Health Informatics degree will be able to apply for entry-level jobs working on computers for any business that applies to health care. These jobs would be as database technicians, network technicians, and health information systems specialists. Such jobs can have a starting salary as high as \$35,000.

"The degree is making good progress," said Briare. "It is ready to go for approval."

Briare said that the college offers most of the classes already and some can be formed to be taught online, so it was more of a matter of organizing the program into a degree than creating new classes or expenses.

Students are already beginning to get excited about this new degree. Student Amy Sharer, who is currently working on getting her associate of general studies, wants to eventually work in the health field working with disabilities and research. She said she was considering going into Health Informatics prior to hearing Clackamas was looking into offering the degree and felt that offering the degree was amazing.

The program will be approved, disapproved or sent back for further review on March 9 at the Board of Education meeting.

OPINION: Students should demand college accountability

By Nevin Havorson & Rebekkah Brainerd

The past weeks have brought many ideas and actions into light. Many of us have read the articles featured in our college newspaper dealing with a unanimously approved bond measure, a controversial Clackamas County Board of Education meeting and an inevitable tuition increase. These subjects have started a compromising war of words that are distancing students from each other and the community they are educating themselves to improve.

On Feb. 9 concerned students challenged the Clackamas County Board of Education to provide them with documentation of the college business plan in relation to a May bond measure.

To quote a *Clackamas Print* article from Jan. 19, "If passed, Clackamas Community College will receive \$130 million to spend on expanding classrooms, upgrading rapidly aging and deteriorating equipment, paying off \$20 million in building debts, renovating older buildings and acquiring new property for CCC to expand upon ..."

This is the bond proposition that was passed "in a unanimous vote (that) the Clackamas County Board of Education voted to place ... on the May 2011 ballot."

The issue raised by many students is that the board doesn't have enough accountability for where the money goes. The executive board and board of education originally evaluating the needs of Clackamas Community College to be "an estimated total of \$250 million," but "out of consideration of the economy and the state of our taxpayers, we dwindled that down to a ... (reasonable \$130 million)."

Many students are asking how this is a reasonable amount, but more importantly, that there should be much more accountability if this type of money is going to be borrowed. The students that spoke out feel that the board is lacking accountability to both the welfare of the college and the community they are sworn to serve by thus far not being forthcoming with all the information requested.

To be a good citizen and student, it is necessary to point out and try to change the flaws that are seen in a system of government, to voice opinions and viewpoints, especially if they are unpopular, and to make oneself heard.

For a committee to decide what benefits the majority of people, without those persons' input and concerns being heard, is not beneficial or democratic. For every action to better something, whether it be to strengthen the college for future students, aid the administration in their tasks of educat-

ing or giving students the means the opportunity to take part in CCC administration, all must be found on compromise and barter so that, in the end, the best for the majority is decided by the majority.

Dear students, these issues are not merely just the indignation of members of the board or zeal demonstrated by students. These actions are attempts at progress, the attempt at the preservation of liberty. But as Edmund Burke said, "Liberty without wisdom and without virtue ... is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice and madness without tuition or restraint."

All of us have stood around complaining about the way things are about the problems we alone cannot solve. But to be a good citizen means standing up and taking a stand to change the things we see are wrong. That includes shifting our focus from the real problems at hand and not wasting precious time and effort on things and condemning the mistakes of others.

Those practices will not fix the problems. They will not change the facts presented by a struggling economy that is affecting our college soon our cost of tuition. Nor will we present a solution or bring cohesion to a community already divided by economic, foreign policy and human rights issues.

For if all we carry is a hammer everything we see begins to look like a nail. We cannot justify our actions with anger. Anger can be used in the form of passion to demonstrate how much you care about the facts you want to present. But in no way should it be used as the reason for action.

Every one of us desires to live better lives, make a difference in our homes, our community and our world. Attempts at this kind of good citizenship have been seen in the recent weeks. It is a good thing, but more importantly, it also means that more of us students need to stand up and vote ourselves.

As great men once said, all that is necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world is for enough good men to do nothing. This article is to challenge you, dear reader, to question all that come to your own informed decision and to use your own voice to stand for your own rights.

You, more than anyone, have the power to affect the changes that will keep this college in good standing. Changes must be made and you are the only hope of a change for the better. And if you do not act now the changes will be thrust upon you. Outcomes that you had no part in will have little ability to alter.

-Supported by: Adam Buehler
Christopher Thompson

Letter to the Editor: Student resigns in protest

It is with my deepest regret that I am obligated to take such position on this matter. First and foremost, I would like to thank all of the members in Associated Student Government for their kindness and compassion they have shown me during my period of service.

The *Clackamas Print* covered a story regarding the new Vice President, Sean Briare, earlier this term. However, it failed to mention the deep conflict of interest that had occurred during the hiring process.

Recently the members of the ASG were made aware of the romantic relationship between Alyssa Fava (president) and Sean Briare (vice president), which dates back to the hiring process. The exact time of when someone "falls" in love is unclear, but one can only assume the emotional state and the influence which our president carried dur-

ing the consideration of appointment of Mr. Briare as vice president.

Some may argue that there may have not been any conflict of interest and that Mr. Briare was the best candidate for the position. I would disagree, given that conflict of interest is not only the act of favoritism but also the appearance of favoring individuals. This conflict of interest became corruption when Mr. Briare took office. Corruption, most commonly defined as misuse of power, is, and will be, the state of our Associated Student Government if this continues. So I hereby resign from ASG, for I will not be under the leadership of those who misuse their power.

Sincerely,
Kyungwoong Han

Clarification

In the March 2 issue of *The Clackamas Print*, a letter to the editor from student Sean Huggins stated that the Board of Education is paid. The Board of Education is not paid.

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