

AUDIT: Clackamas Community College warned

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As the meeting went on, college president Joanne Truesdell brought up that she, Shelly Parini and Janet Paulson are seeking further clarification regarding the fines they were sent for violating the election laws during the failed bond measure campaign in May. They are looking into how to correct the record with the election division.

"What we really found is that the process is very unclear. The guidelines are very unclear and what it would take as individuals is to spend an [enormous] amount of time in Salem trying to help the election office to go through this material and we decided we would not to do that because it really does take away from our time. We are in the middle of serving students and also having time with our families," said Truesdell.

She went on to say that while speaking to the election director, she learned that the division is coming up with administrative rules. The administrative rules would help explain the statute.

"We volunteered to be part of that process of review to ensure that the public and community get what they need and that it is clear for personnel who are associated with any public body," said Truesdell.

During the citizen comments Brown brought up the Oct. 21 College Council meeting where Truesdell spoke openly about the election violations that she received. He requested all and any paperwork that was given out at that meeting regarding the election violations. Brown is a former student of political science instructor Dean Darris who filed the elections complaint against the college.

"In fact Dean Darris is on the record stating that he believed the college has made a mockery of the law," Brown said regarding the previous bond elections.

He accused the college of "spending like a drunken sailor, spending \$270,000 on new furniture." He then informed the college that a group of concerned citizens led by former CCC student and Columbia University graduate Nathan Page will be submitting a formal request with the Secretary of State "to perform a real and meaningful audit."

Truesdell responded that no staff member in the time period of the bond asked any questions or offered their input about the information and the process for the May bond election. Truesdell also did not respond to the allegation of spending \$270,000 on office furniture. She also cleared up on the Oct. 21 College Council meeting no paper was handed out, so no papers would be brought to the next board of education meeting.

Reid said thank you to Brown for speaking and finished up the meeting quickly after. The next board of education meeting is Dec. 14.

Rise in student enrollment hits close to home

By Patty Salazar
News Editor

If you're at Clackamas Community College on any weekday morning, you've probably come across the same problem as many other students: no parking. Although this common problem is frustrating, has it made you wonder how many students attend Clackamas? When you ask students why they chose CCC the answer could range from the college being so local, to the price of tuition being one of the lowest in the area. Whatever brings you to Clackamas it is easy to see that it is one of the most popular community colleges in Oregon.

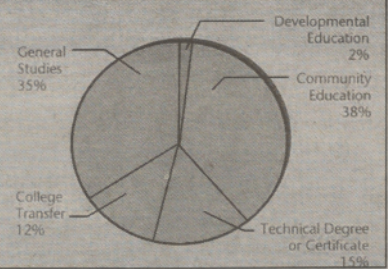
In recent years the student in enrollment for CCC has gradually gone up. In the 2006-2007 academic year, the number of students enrolled at Clackamas was at 30,677 and it jumped to 38,637 in the 2009-2010 academic year. With the college having three different campuses and online courses, it might not be obvious how many students attend CCC.

According to Tara Sprehe, director of enrollment management and registrar at CCC, this fall Clackamas was awarded \$32,380,476 in financial aid to 3,259 students. Although this fall the full-time enrollment has gone down five percent, Clackamas has 10,756 full-time and part-time students this term.

There is a connection between unemployment and enrollment at CCC, according to Steffen Moller, Dean of Curriculum, Planning and Research.

"Community college enrollment often works right along with unemployment. If unemployment goes up, generally speaking, our enrollment goes up as well," said Moller.

Enrollment Breakdown by Student Enrollment 2010-2011



Moller went on to explain that many high school graduates cannot find jobs and attend CCC for an education. Also those who become unemployed go back to school for a new set of skills to help get a new job.

Reasons why students might choose to study here vary.

Clarke Robinson, who is a first-year student, said, "I wanted to be around my friends."

Robinson said he is getting his basic courses at CCC before transferring to Portland Chiropractic to become a chiropractor.

Andrew Roeser, a second-year student said, "I'm a veteran so I thought this was going to be an easy shot and transfer to a university later on."

Lori Reed, who is in her first-year said, what attracted her to CCC was more than just the school being local but the project management degree that a lot of other schools do not offer.

"I did project management before in my career and I never really had the credentials and now I am back to get those and get a higher paying job with my degree," said Reed.

CCC offers many two-year degrees, such as project management to welding technology. Whether it is retraining, transfer degrees or one of the two-year degrees that brings you to Clackamas you can see that many others are here for the same opportunity.



All photos by Matt Senn The Clackamas Print

Top: Clarke Robison chose Clackamas Community College to be close to friends.

Middle: Lori Reed chose CCC for a degree that most colleges do not offer.

Bottom: Andrew Roeser, a veteran is at CCC to later transfer to a university.

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19600 Molalla Ave.
Oregon City, OR 97045

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Contact Information

chiefed@clackamas.edu
copyed@clackamas.edu
newsed@clackamas.edu
aced@clackamas.edu
sportsed@clackamas.edu
photoed@clackamas.edu
admgr@clackamas.edu
webeditor@clackamas.edu