

VAGUE RELATIONSHIP POLICY AT CLACKAMAS RAISES QUESTIONS

BY KATIE ARCHER

Track athletes were upset when they saw a distance coach giving a teammate extra practice.

Drew Wasmund was on a one-year part-time contract from Sep. 2014 to June 2015.

On June 22, 2015, an athlete sent an email to head track coach Keoni McHone.

"... It's pretty obvious they are dating, and they have been dating all year long," the email said. "I think it's extremely unprofessional for a coach to date an athlete ... I hope you do something about this Keoni, because this is just plain wrong."

At Clackamas Community College, there is no policy against staff members having romantic relationships with students.

Staff and student relationships have happened before at CCC with former political science instructor Dean Darris and a student, who he later married.

Music instructor Brian Rose first met his wife when she was taking one of his classes. She went on to become a tutor for the music theory program and Rose got to know her better. They are three weeks apart in age.

Several months after she had taken his class, Rose said he talked to his department chair to make sure it was okay if they began to date. He was told she was more of a staff member and she wasn't his student anymore.

Rose thinks there is some danger when getting involved in those types of relationships. Rose thought it would be good to have a course for staff about the dangers of having romantic relationship with students and the potential outcomes.

"It just one of those areas that's always been kind of hush-hush but we can't be hush-hush about

stuff, especially when it comes to relationships and things that have such volatile capabilities of getting out of hand or causing tremendous pain," said Rose. "We're not here to cause pain. We're here to help people get going."

More than one athlete complained about what they thought was happening during last year's track season between Wasmund, then 27, and Kennedy Rufener, then 19.

"On a personal standpoint, I don't think his decision was necessarily wrong," said sophomore runner Devin Sellers. "As a coach, I feel like it was. I felt like that was a little unfair that he decided to make poor decisions while trying to coach a collegiate team."

Becky Ponnay, a cross country and track athlete, told the Clackamas Print that athletes were told not to speak to the media about what happened with Wasmund.

Wasmund's yearlong contract was not renewed in 2015.

Athletic director Jim Martineau wouldn't say why Wasmund's contract was not renewed.

McHone told Martineau that he did not want to bring Wasmund back as a coach because Wasmund wasn't meeting up to his coaching duties, Martineau said. There was a conversation between the three of them and Wasmund handed in his keys.

"[Coaching] requires quite a bit and I don't want to say anything negative from there," said McHone.

Martineau said in the athletic world it's an unwritten rule that coaches do not have relationships with their athletes while they are coaching them. Coaches need to be professional and need to coach their athletes.

"If someone was having an inappropriate relationship, we would ask them not to coach



Coach Keoni McHone emailed these photos to athletic director Jim Martineau in June after an athlete complained about Kennedy Rufener and Drew Wasmund's relationship.