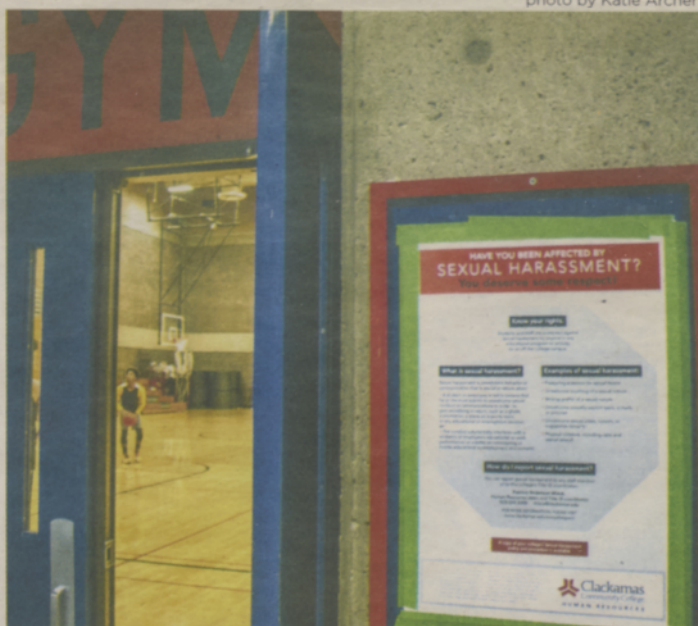


photo by Katie Archer



Starting this year, signs can be seen around campus to inform the CCC community about sexual harassment.

anymore,” said Martineau. “As an A.D. [athletic director] you hope to make good decisions on the people we hire.”

Wasmund and Rufener did not respond to repeated requests for interviews.

Both Wasmund and Rufener are no longer at CCC, but the issue of romance between staff and students remains in question.

With the Obama administration investigating the handling of sexual assault allegations at several colleges and the overall growing awareness of sexual assault, some colleges have chosen to tighten their policy on faculty and student romantic relationships. Title IX has also played a factor in these decisions.

In federally funded education programs, like Clackamas, Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

Starting this year, sexual harassment posters can be seen around campus to inform the CCC community their rights, what sexual harassment is and how people can report it.

Last year, Harvard University banned faculty from having romantic or sexual relationships with their undergraduate students.

In 2003, University of California, Berkeley, decided to prohibit staff and student relationships after a scandal involving its law school dean the year before.

The women’s center at Northwestern University gives advice to students about dating their professors.

“The best time to date your professor, if at all, is after you have graduated from school,” their website states.

Unlike other colleges around Oregon, (see sidebar) CCC has a vague policy when it comes to faculty and student romantic relationships.

Patricia Anderson Wieck, the dean of human resources at Clackamas, said in an email that the college’s employment policy can be found in the employee handbook and on the college’s sexual respect website.

Wieck wrote that according to the employee handbook, “All employees are expected and required to treat each other, our students and our community in a courteous and respectful manner at all times.”

Wieck said there are guidelines and requirements in staff handbooks.

“If there were a report, or inappropriate conduct, it would be investigated and resolved/sanctioned accordingly,” said Wieck.

Since The Clackamas Print has raised questions about the college’s policy, board of education member Greg Chaimov said the board is looking into whether or not it would be good to have a policy guiding the relationships between students and staff.

“We have discussed generally how we hope the staff will interact with students and vice versa,” said Chaimov. “Our hope and expectation is that any relationship between staff and students will be respectful, cordial and productive in terms of helping the students become a better student and upon graduating, a better member of the community.”

## STAFF AND STUDENT RELATIONSHIP POLICIES VARY AT OTHER OREGON COLLEGES

### Portland State University

Portland State University’s policy states that it encourages individuals to avoid such relationships. They recognize that a relationship between a student and staff member could potentially result in favoritism or bias if the staff member is in a position of power over the student. The policy says that the adults engaging in a consensual relationship are responsible for disclosing their relationship immediately to their supervisors or to Human Resources or the Office of Academic Affairs. They also must work to make sure there are no conflicts of interest or adverse effects on third parties.

### Mt. Hood Community College

Consensual relationships involving a faculty member and a student are prohibited at Mt. Hood Community College where the faculty member has direct authority, influence or responsibility with regard to that student. The policy says that the person with authority could create an environment that diminishes the freedom of the other to alter or end the relationship. It also said that a consensual relationship could result in harm to a third party who is denied privileges that accrue to those who participate in the relationship.

### Chemeketa Community College

The policy at Chemeketa Community College states that staff involved in a consensual relationship, or even what appears to be a consensual relationship, with a student are prohibited from supervising or making grading decisions related to that student. The college wants to have an environment of learning and growth and they view consensual relationships between staff and students as a disruption from that environment. The policy also states that any person who engages in behavior against the policy is subject to disciplinary actions including termination.

– Megan McCoy