

Faculty Senate allows extracurricular credit

By DANIELLE CHIARA and JENNIFER STRAWSER
Collegian Staff Writers

The University Faculty Senate voted at its meeting Tuesday to allow students to obtain academic credit from experiences outside the classroom.

According to the Senate agenda, students who acquire college-level knowledge outside the University can earn credit by compiling and submitting a portfolio. The student must be enrolled at the University and have acquired at least three credits or more before being eligible for the portfolio option.

For example, students who would have worked on a U.S. Air Force base would be able to gain credit in a science class by describing and documenting their knowledge in that field.

Erik Orient (sophomore-history) said the portfolio credit was a good idea and is something those in the military think about when choosing a university.

"It's actually a big concern," he said. "They stress it when you get out of the Marine Corps that you try to contact the school and see if you can get any credit."

According to the Senate agenda, a suggested procedure would be used when a student seeks credit through portfolio assessment. The student would discuss the option with advisers and the Center for Adult Learner Services and get a handbook providing information on obtaining credit for past subject experience.

The student would then consult with faculty when creating their portfolio. The portfolio would contain information about how the prior experience relates to the University

course, petitions for credit for the course and documentation of the student's prior learning experience.

After the portfolio is evaluated, the credit would be authorized by a department head and noted on the student's transcript.

Leonard Berkowitz, chair for the Senate committee on admissions, records, scheduling and student aid, said students' portfolios would be reviewed by department heads of courses for which students are seeking credit.

Some Senate members discussed the frustration of adult learners who have had experience in an area that is covered in a course. Those students may be frustrated with having to learn about a topic in which they are already knowledgeable. Accepting portfolio credit would allow those students to move on to a higher-level course.

Charlene Harrison, a member of the subcommittee to study other forms of credit acquisition, said students would not want to pay tuition to sit in a class discussing material they already understand.

But doing portfolios may not be a viable option for all students.

John Phillips, associate professor of chemical engineering, said that for the College of Engineering, adult students should be advised to take a higher-level course rather than having the option of a portfolio evaluation.

Portfolio credit is also awarded at a state universities such as Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Big Ten schools in the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, such as the Ohio State, also allows enrolled students to gain credit by compiling a portfolio.

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Cuba Shuster

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flights out of Cuba came at about 3:45, and their flight wasn't scheduled to leave until 4:15. The flight left anyway, and upon its arrival in Miami, the wrestlers were met by a member of the airline's staff.

"Someone came up to us and said, 'You guys are the last plane going to or coming from Cuba for a long time,'" McCoy said.

The first thing McCoy did in Miami was call his mother to let her know that he was safe, while other wrestlers did the same.

"We were careful not to joke around, saying we were still in Cuba," McCoy said. "We didn't know how people would react. We just wanted to make sure that everyone knew we were home safe."

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technicality for John Peterson to overcome."

Shuster also said he is disappointed the case did not go to court.

"So while I was really hoping to have a formal opinion by the court, I think I got something just as good," he said, "which is an affirmation by John Peterson himself by withdrawing his challenge that I have met all requirements to be on the ballot."

Shuster said he does not think the allegations will bring the rest of the campaign down because he will continue to run on the issues.

Robert O'Connor, associate professor of political science, said that

the allegations should not leave a stain on either candidate's campaign, and because the charges did not go to court, the public cannot assume either side was lying.

"You can't assume Shuster is guilty, but you also cannot assume bad faith on Peterson's part either," O'Connor said.

But not all of the Republican candidates are concerned with the validity of their opponents' petitions.

Morris Massel, campaign manager for Conway, said that little things always happen when working with a large number of signatures.

For example, people forget

which party they have registered with, he said.

"We saw a couple of errors in our opponents' petitions the same way we saw errors in our own," he said.

But Massel added that Conway is too busy concentrating on his campaign to scrutinize his opponents.

"We're not getting bogged down in this petition controversy," Massel said.

Gordeuk also said he is too busy concentrating on his own campaign to be concerned with the details of others.

"I did not scrutinize the petitions myself," he said. "If Mr. Peterson wants to make it an issue then he can make it an issue."

Panel

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Karen Bower, a panelist who is also a member of several disability organizations, as well as LGBSA, said multiculturalism means an end to all "isms," including racism, sexism, ageism and ableism.

The panel also discussed the importance of appreciating one's own culture in addition to appreciating the cultures of others.

Matusick said people usually have no problem appreciating their own culture.

"It's pretty much inherent that I'm going to appreciate my own culture," he said.

Nixon added that multiculturalism takes a particular mindset of openness and a willingness to learn.

Stephen Wei, president of the Asian-American Student Coalition, said it is easy to learn about white culture in schools, because that is the history that is primarily taught.

Lapp stressed the importance of reading about the aspects of white culture that are not commonly learned in school, and not only focusing on the good things that are taught.

"I think we hear a lot of things about white culture that are wrong," he said.

Robyn Thorpe, a panelist and member of the student advisory board for the multicultural resource center, said it is not only important for whites to learn about

minority culture, but it is also important for minorities to learn about other minority cultures.

Some members of the panel said they believe multiculturalism has been met with hostility because people fear changes in the status quo and because some white males fear a loss of power.

"A lot of white people are feeling threatened because their white privilege — they might not even realize they have it — is threatened," said Thorpe.

Wei added that much of the white backlash is the result of a fear to change, but said that everyone can benefit from multiculturalism.

"Maybe white people will be knocked down a rung, but we will all go up two rungs," he said.

But some panelists disagreed. Matusick said many people are not afraid, but are simply unwilling to change the way they think.

"I may not agree with lesbian and gay issues, but that doesn't mean I'm afraid of them," he said.

According to another panelist, Jane Fueyo, a member of the Lion Ambassadors and Amnesty International, multiculturalism does not necessarily mean agreeing with everyone else. Instead, it means coexistence that is not strife-producing.

Finally, the panel discussed ways in which whites can join in and work toward a diverse society.

Three men testify against officer in sex scandal

By The Associated Press

ALLENTOWN — Three young men have testified that when they were teen-agers, a Bethlehem police officer invited them to his home, gave them beer, showed

adult videos, masturbated in front of them and performed oral sex on them.

Officer Edmund Haenig, 26, of Bethlehem, was bound for trial Tuesday that he sexually assaulted the youths in 1993 and 1994.

Haenig was arrested on the charges Nov. 7 and suspended from the force. His \$600 weekly salary is being held in escrow pending the result of a disciplinary hearing before City Council. He remains free under a \$25,000 bail.

Police bust prostitution ring

By The Associated Press

ERIE — Police began arresting more than a dozen men yesterday in connection with a prostitution ring of teen-age boys.

Police said the men solicited at least three boys ranging in age from 15 to 17 who performed sex acts in return for cash, alcohol or drugs. Police were still trying to determine how many people were involved.

"We feel these adult males knew each other somehow, and we're trying to determine just what their connection is and how widespread this is," state police spokesman Trooper John Ochs said.

The charges included involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, criminal solicitation, prostitution

and related offenses and corruption of minors.

Among those arrested was William L. Perry, a former Erie police officer. He was one of seven suspects arraigned before District Justice Joseph Weindorf.

Perry, 54, was charged with one count of prostitution, one count of criminal solicitation and three counts of corrupting the morals of a minor.

He was a key witness in the 1985 trial of former Erie police Chief Sam Gemelli, who was accused of the theft of guns from the police evidence room. Gemelli was later acquitted of all charges.

Perry was also charged with stealing five guns from the evidence room and unlawful delivery of guns.

Police Brief

The Ferguson Township Police Department is seeking information about a white male in his 20s with reddish hair pulled back, possibly in a ponytail.

He is less than 6-feet-tall and has a thin build, according to a news release. This man was observed last Friday afternoon on two separate occasions, walking on College Avenue in the vicinity of Science Park Road and Holly Circle, according to a news release.

No other information was available.
—by Amy E. Oakes

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