FACULTY SENATE

Online courses a possibility

By Jennifer Brown Staff Reporter

Faculty Senate gathered today to discuss issues concerning the School of Continuing Education and how it is affecting enrollment of on-campus students.

In his arguments, chemistry professor Jonathan Blitz looked over the School of Continuing Education budgets from 2005 to 2010. From there, Blitz compared these numbers to the Academic Affairs budget.

"There's a perception that the college of education is taking on a larger role in competing for resources for academic programs," Blitz said.

From 2007 to 2010, the School of Continuing Education had a substantial increase in funds through its budget. In fact, while the Academic Affairs budget only increased 10 percent, the School of Continuing Education had an increase of 36.8 percent.

In 2010; 30,000 student credit hours were generated through the School of Continuing Education.

From that, the School of Continuing Education saw revenue of \$6.9 million in 2010 with an additional \$2.3 million, which came from Academic Affairs, with a total cost of \$3.3

This is a conservative estimate by Blitz, who then looked at the courses being offered on campus and the goals for students.

The college offers an outreach program for the students seeking to continue their higher education, according to the School of Continuing Education mission statement. Many of the courses offered to through the School of Continuing Education are general education courses or senior seminars.

While these courses may be offered through their departments, they are also offered through the School of Continuing Education.

The School of Continuing Education courses are competing with the courses that are taught through departments, Blitz said.

Blitz said if there is potential harm to the university in the process, then faculty members have to keep this within their spectrum.

"An online course competes with a course that's on campus," Blitz said. "A student can sit in their dorm or in their apartment in Charleston and take that online course, never having to go onto campus."

Blitz urged the Faculty Senate to consider the academic quality of these

Jeff Stowell, associate professor of psychology and senate member, has taught online courses and agrees with

"The first year I taught an online course, it was delivered through the department," Stowell said. "I have seen a shift in the enrollment from predominantly off-campus adult learners to students on campus who may not be able to fit the course into their sched-

Blitz said on average 10 percent of credit hours come from the School of Continuing Education.

John Best, professor of psychology and senate member, said the Council of Academic Affairs has made the course selection more difficult.

Another concern raised by the senate was the fact that if courses are not available to a student, they may enroll in the course at another institution, which in turn causes Eastern to lose money.

Best said in the future there may be options for an entire program to be

"There's going to come a day that if we're not doing it, students are going to take it some place else," Best said.

The courses should be taught through the department instead of the School of Continuing Education, Blitz

Jonathan Coit, a history professor and senate member, agrees with Blitz that there has to be academic quality when choosing the courses to present

"We have to be concerned about academic quality," Coit said. "If we're going to offer these courses online, we have to make sure we do it right."

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Stevenson to host '70s-themed meal

By Seth Schroeder **Activities Editor**

For the first time, the reservation only dining at Stevenson Grill Etc. will have a '70s-themed meal Thursday evening.

Jamie Huckstead, assistant director of dining at Stevenson Hall, said the staff serving the RO meal will be dressed in tie-dye shirts and jeans for the '70s theme. She said customers are encouraged to dress up in any '70s attire they may have.

"I think it's fun for the employees," Huckstead said. "It's just different for them, a different atmosphere."

Mark Wegener, a senior history major and head student manager for Stevenson Grill Etc. agreed with Huckstead and said he thinks employees will enjoy the theme. Not only will employees get to dress casually, but they will get to keep the tie-dye shirts they wear for their shifts, he said.

Huckstead said the menu for the meal will be the same as regular RO meals. She also said customers should make reservations online as they normally do for RO meals.

Huckstead said she expects a full house with nearly 260 reservations.

Wegener said he does not have

much '70s apparel, but he said he would be attending the dinner service, eat and set up music for the

We are trying our hardest to get some '70s music in the background for the night," Wegener said. "It will really offer a difference in atmosphere."

Wegener said he is working with Gregg Media Services to help set up

"I'm excited about the theme," Wegener said. "Especially if we get lots of people dressed up. Someone in platform shoes and an afro, that would be great."

Huckstead said she thinks students will enjoy the themed meal in part due to the popularity of television programs such as "That '70s

"Everybody kind of like(s) that show," Huckstead said. "The antics of that show . . . that's what I think of when I think of a '70s theme."

To make a reservation for the meal, students should visit the RO options of Tower dining on the dining section of Eastern's website.

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STATE

Authorities close case on Ill. and Ind. shootings

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Investigators officially closed the books Tuesday on shootings last year in rural Illinois and Indiana after DNA evidence helped show a man killed in a suburban Chicago robbery attempt months later was the shooter.

For months, authorities called Gary Amaya, 48, of Rankin, Ill., a suspect in the Oct. 5, 2010, shootings that left one dead and two injured. Amaya was killed in December with his own gun during what police said

was an attempted robbery of a tanning salon in suburban Chicago.

Ballistic tests showed the handgun in the robbery attempt matched one used in the rural Illinois and Indiana. But authorities wanted to await DNA testing, including some on handwriting samples.

"In our guts, we felt that Amaya was the responsible party," said Will County Sheriff's Deputy Chief Ken Kaupas said.

He said investigators met last week with the Will County state's attorney's office and police in Lake County, Indiana, to close the case. He said DNA tests weren't conclusive, but none of the tests could rule out Amaya. He said DNA evidence in a national registry had also not shown a match anywhere since Amaya's death.

Tests were conducted on a handwriting samples from a piece of paper Amaya allegedly gave to a victim before the shootings. An expert said the tests couldn't rule out Amaya as the

"The families impacted by this have some closure," Kaupas said. "It was such a senseless crime, it's hard to get any sense of satisfaction."

The shootings began the morning of Oct. 5 at a rural construction site in Illinois. The gunman shot and killed Rolando Alonso, 45, of Hammond, Ind., and wounded Joshua Garza, a 19-year-old from Dyer, Ind. Later, farmer Keith Dahl, 64, was wounded near Lowell, Ind.

The case had attracted national attention from the beginning because of some bizarre details. For example, the gunman was initially dubbed the "honeybee shooter" because he allegedly talked to at least one victim about beekeeping.

Then authorities wrongly accused police officer Brian Dorian cop in the shootings. He was cleared after investigators said forensic computer evidence showed he was at home when one of the shootings hap-

Jason McDaniel, a customer at the L.A. Tan in Orland Park allegedly robbed by Amaya, managed to grab the handgun from him before shooting him twice. Salon managers called McDaniel a hero and gave him a cash reward and free tanning for life.





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