

**From:** [Jerry BURNS](#)  
**To:** [Kattie Riggs](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Community Input vs Bureaucracy  
**Date:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 5:58:04 AM

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Kattie,

Would you please send this note along with my memo to the Board to the members of the Budget Committee.

One of the committee members commented last night about the need for process improvements. While she was 'corrected' by the President, I'd say she was clearly right. To have a full house of community members provide input and then be informed that "even if we agree with you, that's not our job" felt like a big middle finger to all of us there. What was the point of hearing from the community if you can't fix what you seemed to all agree was a problem. And let's be clear, this is a problem that can probably be fixed in 6 to 9 hours, not 6 to 9 months. I'd say the chances are 50:50 that when a community ed autobody class is ready to rollout in 2026, there won't be enough registrants because you've lost the momentum and commitment. Administration will dust off their hands with a "I guess there just isn't that much interest" and the program is gone along with the good will it generates.

When President Cook said he didn't want to set a timeframe because he "didn't want to overpromise" what he really means is this isn't a big enough priority to make a commitment. I spent a lot of years as a manager in a bureaucracy. When something was important, it got done. This is an easy one. Please do what you can to make it a priority for the college.

**From:** Administrator <[burnsy2@comcast.net](mailto:burnsy2@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** May 22, 2025 at 12:29:14 AM PDT  
**To:** [board@clackamas.edu](mailto:board@clackamas.edu)  
**Subject:** Community Input vs Bureaucracy

I attended the Budget Committee meeting last evening. I was impressed by the committee and their sensitivity to the audience and the information they were given. I was pleased with their attempt to find a solution by changing the auto body classes from credit to non-credit community education.

President Cook indicated his appreciation to those in attendance and his sincere intent to explore this route.

In the end however, it was a very hollow victory for the community and those of us who have attended classes and were looking for a resolution. President Cook and Vice President Shaffer indicated it would take two or three terms to explore and possibly implement this option. Both men know better. The college has the facility, the curriculum, the

instructors, the students, and a detailed breakdown of the budget. All we're talking about is moving this to community ed and setting a price. I know it's more complicated than changing the designation in the catalog, but it's not a 6 to 9 month challenge. That's a sure way to kill it. Many of us will have moved on or given up by then.

My suggestion and request to the Board and to the President is to actually make this important. Assign someone who cares to lead this project. Direct them to put together recommendations by the end of June for implementation. Ask them to reach out and stay in communication with existing instructors and students and anybody that expresses interest in the classes. Make this a win for the college and the community.

Thank you

Jerry Burns  
971-998-7251

**From:** [Administrator](#)  
**To:** [CCC Board of Education](#)  
**Subject:** Auto Body Classes  
**Date:** Friday, June 20, 2025 9:51:48 AM

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Board Members and Administrators

I am one of those disappointed by the college's decision to eliminate weekend auto body classes. I understand the college now says it will take months to determine if these classes could fit under community education because they aren't within existing policies. The thing is, they don't fit. Policies will have to be changed if these classes are restarted.

So, it's time for a Board decision .

- if you want the classes, say so. The college can create policies to accommodate them. It wouldn't be traditional community education. It would be a hybrid. Come up with a name that fits.
- If you don't want the classes, then stop stringing this out and just tell us.

To state the obvious, the college doesn't appear to want these classes. They also don't want the headache of dealing with unhappy former students. Hence the current exploratory strategy that will take months to conclude. By that time, most of us will have moved on. Since you all direct the college, is that what you want? Just tell us.

If, by chance, you want these classes and the good feelings and good publicity that can come with them, then get them restarted. At the very least set a date to restart them. This isn't hard. As I said in my first letter, you already have the facility, the dates and times, the curriculum, the teachers, the students, the history and habits. It sounds like one big hang-up is the college wants a community sponsor. Which is easier - finding a sponsor starting from scratch or finding a sponsor that can step into a system already successfully running? This whole thing could be used for some great publicity about the college being proactive, listening to it's students and community and finding a way to make things work.

So decide already - please.