

Opinions

What you had to say about...

Students retaking impacted classes

Daily Evergreen columnist Sara Lovell asked students whether they believe students who have withdrawn from impacted courses should be allowed to retake those courses in a later semester.

Impacted courses are defined as classes which have more student requests for enrollment than space available.

Currently, students who have received a C-minus or lower are not allowed to retake impacted courses. A proposal was made to change the rule to read any student who has withdrawn from an impacted course may not retake that class.

Here are some responses:



"Yes, I do think people should be able to retake impacted courses because a lot of times people aren't prepared to take a class and later in their education they are."

Gabrielle Feldman
Zoology



"No. If I'm paying money to take that class and I don't get in because someone else who dropped it beat me out, that's not fair."

JoJo Gaon
Comparative American Cultures/Psychology



"That makes sense (that you should not be allowed to retake an impacted course) except if the student needs that class to graduate, they should have priority and be able to retake it."

Tara Perry
Communications

"Yes, I think students should be able to retake closed classes because the university is not a contest where there are winners and losers. The university is a learning institution, where the students should have every available option to learn the material."

Robert Gilster
Mechanical Engineering

"I think you should be able to retake a class for any reason, because we're paying for the education. There could be a number of reasons you withdraw from a class — it's not what you expected, or maybe the class load is too much for that semester. I think it's a good option."

Janae Loeber
Biology

"They have to be let back in, especially if they need the class to graduate, but there has to be some sort of consequence since they forfeited their first chance."

Craig Schaper
Civil Engineering

"There should be some limit on withdraws. I've been in a few classes this semester, which were filled, with people still trying to get into them. I am rather disgusted when people get into a full class, and then drop it. This should not be allowed to happen, and I hope it never does happen to me."

Brian T. Perkins

"I think we should be able to because we pay for this school — we should be able to do whatever the hell we want."

Jeff Hardesty
English/Education

"I think they should be able to because you don't know what circumstances they are going through."

Justin May
Finance

"Things happen. Sometimes you just have to retake a class and you're screwed if you can't."

Eric Shaffstall
Electrical Engineering

"I think you should be able to because just because it's too crowded doesn't mean it shouldn't be treated like any other class."

Sarah Hasselblad
English

"Sure, why not? It's their money, it's their tuition, they should be able to do what they want with it."

Bo Ingham

"A student probably dropped a class because they didn't have the background or the professor didn't teach it in a way they can understand, so they dropped the class. So once the student has a better idea of what the class is about or can take a different professor that they may learn from better, the student should be able to retake it, especially because they probably need that class to graduate."

Andrea Kozak
Education

Letters:

GLBA responds to Himmel

Editor,

Homosexuality continues to be an issue that elicits a wide range of opinions from principled support for the rights of individuals to vitriolic denunciation, as was evidenced on the opinions page of the Nov. 15 edition of The Evergreen. Since this is a university setting, where some expectation of reasonably accurate information and moderately civil discourse might be expected as part of the context for learning and thinking, we wish to respond in particular to Peter Himmel's piece, "ASWSU Gays: A Line in the Sand." To his credit, Mr. Himmel makes very clear his position on the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association being granted committee status with ASWSU and his feelings about gays: he's vehemently against both.

However, his views are supported by appallingly ill-informed notions and wildly blatant prejudices in spite of his efforts to justify them as appropriate moral judgments. We must first ask, if a similar column had been written about any other identity-based group of WSU students, staff and faculty, whether it would have passed editorial review for publication. We would hope the exercise of "freedom of speech" in our university publications includes some judgment about accuracy of information and a basic respect for individuals, both of which are quite lacking in Mr. Himmel's commentary.

First, Mr. Himmel suggests society must retain the right to make value judgments about actions voluntarily undertaken by individuals. His very "right" to express his opinions in a public forum such as the Evergreen is defined precisely by our democratic society *not* making such value judgments. Rather, in the United States we have historically defended an individual's right to opinions and choices, and not to be discriminated against based on inherent characteristics.

This leads to the next confounding statement in Mr. Himmel's commentary: that there is no evidence the gay preference is anything other than a behavioral characteristic, and homosexuality is correlated with sexual pathology. Clearly, the author has not been doing research at the university library, or he would have found there are a multiplicity of reasons for individuals being gay, including strong evidence of genetic predisposition as one key factor in individual sexual orientation. The attempt to align homosexuality with pederasty, necrophilia, etc., is to ignore the reality of healthy, positive gay and lesbian relationships built on mutual respect and love. Sexual perversities belong as much to heterosexual practices as to homosexual acts, and there is clear research data demonstrating this.

When he speaks of same-sex coupling as a genetic dead end, Mr. Himmel implies heterosexual activity is undertaken for the purpose of perpetuating the species. This flies in the face of data about numbers of unplanned pregnancies and unwanted children. It also defies the evidence that sex can be a desired experience in itself, apart from the consequences, in terms of health and reproduction. But Mr. Himmel most stridently demonstrates his ignorance when he asserts that gays embrace the ideals of the North American Man-

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