

EDITORIAL

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Should students be required to provide proof of health insurance?

PointCounterPoint

Yes. Students should provide proof of health insurance in order to be a student at College of DuPage. It would help with faster services. Additionally, if a student hurts themselves on school property it would be easier for everyone if there was a system where all the needed medical information was readily obtainable. Some universities have already adopted this policy. Massachusetts had mandatory health insurance since 1989. They require full time and part time students in an institution of higher learning to participate in a student health insurance program. If students do not have health insurance the school will provide health insurance for very little cost. The cost will be very cheap and though the insurance won't cover a lot, it will cover something. By having every student carry health insurance it will free up the

college's liability.

If someone were to get hurt on campus the students would have to pay out of pocket. If he or she were covered by insurance that insurance group would shoulder most of the costs. It would be more beneficial for students to be covered in case that a catastrophic situation were to occur.

Furthermore, it would make it easier for the school so there would not be lawsuits. It would also be tremendously more convenient. If a student got hurt in a sport, the campus police would be able to pull up the information, instead of trying to getting the information while the person is injured. It would make life a lot easier and simpler as the injured person may not be in a condition to converse. It would be better for the entire college community to have health insurance and it would make the college safer as a whole.

Yes

The college should not require its students to have proof of health insurance. The major issue that crops up is cost alone. For college-aged individuals, it is difficult to afford even the basic premiums for health insurance. According to the Illinois Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan website, males and females 20 to 29 years old pay in the ballpark of \$1,104 and \$1,422 respectively for quarterly rates under a basic \$500 deductible Traditional Plan.

Aetna.com, a company that offers many health based products and benefits, said that many students may attempt to apply for school-sponsored health coverage, only to be turned away by cut off dependent ages, usually 19 and 23, leaving part-time and graduate students with fewer options as far as health insurance is concerned. Typical university plans according to Aetna cost anywhere from

No

\$800 to \$1,400 per academic year. Although generally included in the cost of attendance along with things like board and tuition, for the 1.7 million uninsured nationwide it proves to be too big a financial burden.

There is also the thought that medical insurance on file means faster emergency care, this may not be so, however, in certain cases. The paramedics will have to look at the medical information to decide how to proceed, because certain plans do not entitle people to certain emergency care such as the ambulance ride to the hospital. Most schools also require students to have health insurance due to the threat of liability lawsuits, but this does not always work as a preventative measure. Schools still get tied up in health insurance related lawsuits, such as when companies can find loopholes that end up costing the school to cover the lawsuits.

Researched by Molly Hess, A&E Editor

Researched by Amanda Kellermann, Photography Editor

PointCounterPoint topics are selected, researched and written by the staff of the Courier and aim to reflect differing opinions on the same subject. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the author.

myACCESS



Notification to Students

In order to serve you better the myACCESS display of class enrollments is being changed. The new display will show **OPEN** or **FULL** and the **CAPACITY** of the class. The actual number of seats available or occupied will no longer be visible.

In order to maximize your ability to enroll in the classes you need or want, the best course of action is to register **as early as possible**. Delaying registration can result in classes being **cancelled** which can be both frustrating and discouraging for everyone. By registering early you insure an accurate reflection of the class demand, and place a higher confidence in the class being held as planned. It also supports the College's ability to optimize scheduling for the benefit of students.

 College of DuPage

Textbooks on a budget

For students on a fixed budget, textbooks can be formidable. A typical in-district student who takes 16 credits a year spends about \$1,463 on textbooks, roughly 39 percent of the cost of tuition.

Though proportionally very high, that number reflects reasonable tuition rather than textbook gouging. Avoiding the use of required textbooks can cost you academic success. Here are seven great ways for students to acquire textbooks more affordably:

- Join the free book exchange program run by the Student Leadership Council. The book exchange is an online platform that allows students to sell their

- used textbooks directly with each other. Books purchased are cheaper than those offered at the bookstore and books sold generally recoup higher earnings than what is offered at the bookstore. Check out <http://www.dupage.tbxn.com>.

- Find your course materials through the online Web site for the bookstore (www.efollett.com). Searches for books are narrowed by term, department, course number and section number.

- Order them online through a reseller like Amazon or Abebooks. When searching through a reseller, especially Amazon, search by ISBN. (The ISBN is a ten digit number always preceded by the letters ISBN.) This method will return the greatest number of hits for a book, often revealing lower prices than those

yielded for an author or title search.

- Get reading done at the bookstore. For those really expensive books it may be worth finding a cozy section of the bookstore and doing homework right there in the store. Monday to Thursday is the best period of time to do this; the bookstore is open from 7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m. (The bookstore closes at 3:30 p.m. on Friday and on Saturday its hours are 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

- This option is best for students looking to purchase a book from a reseller, or have recently done so, but have to wait for the textbook to arrive by mail. Be very cautious while working with a book in the bookstore and do not alter the condition of the textbook.

- 5Financial Aid offers forty \$500 scholarships and two \$400 scholarships for students to use for textbooks. In addition to that the bookstore has made \$10,000 available for students to purchase textbooks.

- Instructors often receive free desk copies of textbooks from publishers. If asked nicely, instructors may put an extra copy or two of a necessary textbook in course reserves.

- Students may access textbooks put in course reserves at the library if they hold a student library card. The duration to which a student may view the textbook depends on guidelines the instructor gives the library.

- Efollett is the Web site for the bookstore. Used books can be ordered online and picked up in the bookstore or sent to a specific address. Check out www.efollett.com.

Staff Editorial

OPINION

Glen Ellyn resident seeks a pedestrian friendly campus

This week's letter to the editor is a series of letters composed by Glen Ellyn resident Marjorie Lee. Over the past two years she has corresponded with a public officials in the city of Glen Ellyn and with officials at the college in her effort to

make the campus more pedestrian friendly. The letters included are not comprehensive. The entire sequence can be found online at the Courier Web site. Check www.cod.edu/courier/editorialLetters.html

Dear Editor,

The attached material summarizes a two-year effort to obtain a protected crossing on Fawell Boulevard for students and community residents who live north of Fawell.

As you can see, I have approached three COD presidents, on vice president, the former chairman of the Board

of Trustees as well as the Village of Glen Ellyn administration, the Police Department and the Department of Public works.

Perhaps the time has come to go public with this request.

*Marjorie Lee
Glen Ellyn Resident*

Oct. 4, 2007

Dear Mr. McKinnon,

As a local area resident who would like to walk to the campus of the College of DuPage, I am aware that our beloved campus is not "pedestrian friendly."

My initial concerns date way back to the earliest stages of construction when I contacted the Public Works Department of Glen Ellyn and one of the administrators of COD's Master Plan about the new parking lot patterns blocking some of us in Butterfield Manor from walking across Fawell Blvd. to the campus at Ramblewood Drive. I did not receive any follow-up to that request, so I waited patiently.

Two months ago I geared into action again. This time I started with the Glen Public Works Department and met Bob Minnix. My request this time was for a crosswalk and curbcut for accessibility at a point approximately halfway between Park Blvd. and Lambert Road.

Mr. Minnix told me that the Glen Ellyn Police Department is responsible for safety in that area. He referred me to Deputy Chief Bill Holmer. However, the officer at the reception desk told me that Sgt. Norm Webber is in charge of traffic safety. I did have one phone conversation with Sgt. Webber and he indicated that he was not familiar with that area but would look into it. In spite of leaving three additional phone calls, I have had no further word from Sgt. Webber.

So here I am at your doorstep.

There are several subdivisions north of Fawell – Berk-

shire Apts., Butterfield Manor, Raintree, and Greenbriar.

There are COD students in all of these areas. Some walk, some ride bikes, and some drive cars because they are afraid to be pedestrians. There are two sidewalks adjacent to Parking Lots G and D. They seem to be useless because there is no access to them. Crossing Fawell to reach these sidewalks would be fine if a stripped crosswalk could be created with perhaps a "yield to pedestrian" sign installed.

And, of course, there should be a curbcut for those who require a wheelchair or a scooter for mobility as planned by the ADA.

The landscaped median strip is ideal for crossing half way and waiting for clearance on the second half.

In a recent AARP Bulletin there was an article about "walkers, bikers, and the disabled." To quote one statement – "At many corners, pedestrians can pick up a red flag to catch drivers' attention, cross and return the flag to a holder." The story was about a town called Kirkland, Washington. The idea sounded great to me.

I would be happy to meet with you and/or the Board of Trustees to discuss this further.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Marjorie Lee
Glen Ellyn Resident*

March 18, 2008

Dear Dr. Chand,

Although I realize that you have many issues of great importance related to campus construction, I would like to

This map depicts the area where the crosswalk is hoped to come into existence. The area is where Ramblewood Drive connects with Fawell Blvd.



To the north of parking lot D, Ramblewood Drive and Fawell Boulevard intersect. This is the area where the crosswalk is hoped to come into being.



call your attention to a smaller issue --- but important to many of us.

We who live in the COD neighborhood have found that our updated campus is not pedestrian friendly. My concern about this goes back to an era before the major construction was underway.

I have described my concerns in the enclosed letter, which I sent to the chairman of the Board of Trustees on October 4, 2007. To date I have had no response.

I did attend one Board of Trustees meeting and found the procedures closed to the average citizen so I was silent. However, my concerns about pedestrian friendly safety from the local neighborhood continue. As you know, there is a sidewalk running north and south between parking lots D and G. What is the purpose of this sidewalk? It ends at Fawell Boulevard and there is no protected access coming or going from the north side of Fawell.

As indicated in the enclosed letter, I had pursued this with the Glen Ellyn Public Works Department and the Glen Ellyn Police Department. My understanding is that an answer lies with COD.

May I meet with you?

*Marjorie Lee
Glen Ellyn Resident*

May. 13, 2008

Dear Ms. Lee,

I write in reference to your letter of March 18, 2008 expressing your concern about a pedestrian crossing across Fawell Boulevard.

I have looked into this, and did leave you a brief message on your phone.

You have indeed done much

investigation on your own. I wish I had better news for you than I do.

Fawell is a Glen Ellyn street, as is Lambert. College of DuPage has no control over traffic and pedestrian management on these streets. They are controlled by Glen Ellyn and always have been.

College of DuPage is in constant conversation with Glen Ellyn on traffic, safety and pedestrian issues. Glen Ellyn police are clear about the dangers posed by uncontrolled crossings on busy streets. They have repeatedly maintained they will not permit such crossings.

I do thank you for your letters, and appreciate your concern.

I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience.

*Sunil Chand, Ph.D.
President*

July 20, 2008

Dear Dr. McAninch,

As indicated by the enclosed copies of letters, I have attempted during the past year or so, to request safe pedestrian accessibility to the COD campus from the north side of Fawell Boulevard.

I have talked with Bob Minnix of the Glen Ellyn Public Works Department and Sergeant Webber of the Glen Ellyn Police Department. I have written to Chairman McKinnon of the Board of Trustees and have received no reply. I recently was pleased to receive a response from Dr. Chand and I was ready to meet with him. Because of his departure from his role as president, I am assuming that perhaps you may be willing to meet with me.

Hopefully the enclosed let-

ters may explain that there is no clear recognition as to which entity is responsible for a requested safe crossing.

More details may be more easily discussed in person.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Marjorie Lee
Glen Ellyn Resident*

July. 29, 2008

Dear Ms. Lee,

Your letter of July 20, 2008, to Dr. Harold McAninch, has been forwarded to me for a response since construction and access issues fall under my responsibility. In response, I am attaching a recent letter to Mr. Steve Jones, Village Manager, Village of Glen Ellyn, officially requesting that a pedestrian crosswalk be placed across Fawell Boulevard on the sidewalk on the west side of Scholars Drive, which is the main drive up to the Berg Instructional Center from Fawell Boulevard.

Although the college and the village work closely on many matters, it is ultimately the village's decision whether or not a crosswalk can be placed across Fawell Boulevard. Safe access to our campus is a priority for the College and we will do whatever we can to work toward that end.

*Thomas E. Ryan
Vice President, Administrative Affairs and Treasurer*

The entire sequence of letters can be viewed online. Check out:

www.cod.edu/courier/editorialLetters.html