

## Joseph, Holly Colbert

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**From:** Geoduck Union [geoduckunion@evergreen.edu]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 12, 2011 2:39 PM

**To:** TESC Crier MailingList

**Subject:** [tesccrier] Official position of the GSU regarding the new code of conduct

The GSU, the representative voice of the student body, is opposed to the proposed new student code of conduct as written because we feel that it does not adequately protect the rights of students. Degree revocation is an extremely serious punishment and we feel the DTF does not have a solid set of safeguards in place to ensure that it will be applied appropriately.

The GSU is also opposed to the standard of proof required for serious punishments. We do not feel that the standard of proof (a more likely than not standard) adequately addresses the possibility that students could face serious punishments like degree revocation for misconduct of which they are not actually guilty.

Until the DTF modifies the clause of the proposed code to specifically define what prohibited conduct could lead to a revocation of degree and changes the standard of proof involved in serious punishments, the GSU will not support implementation of the new code.

We have been involved in this process for years and have been very vocal about our concerns throughout that time. We most recently brought our concerns to the DTF today, 10/12, and, while they were receptive, they did not commit to any changes. The GSU does not support the code as written and hopes the DTF does not choose to implement it without further revision.

Geoduck Student Union | The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, WA 98505 | Ph. 360-867-6555

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**Joseph, Holly Colbert**

**From:** gabe.stranahan@gmail.com on behalf of Gabe Stranahan [resgab27@evergreen.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 02, 2011 4:30 PM  
**To:** TESC Crier MailingList  
**Cc:** TESC Crier MailingList  
**Subject:** Re: [tesccrier] GSU opposes current revision of Student Conduct Code

I disagree, I believe the college should have the right to revoke a degree for 'egregious academic dishonesty' which is I believe the specific language in the code.

I don't believe the college is in the business of revoking people's degrees. I think that your concern over the matter is appropriate, but the updated code to me is a step forward from the old code. I believe you should support the code, and then communicate with students on how to further improve our Student Conduct Code.

Eleven years ago, students fought against corporate food contracts and were by and large very successful at driving away corporate bidders, or of otherwise convincing them that Evergreen was not a good investment for them. They were so successful, in fact, that only one company made a bid for our food system.

Since Evergreen wasn't equipped to run its own food service, they signed into a contract which, as it turns out, is very beneficial to Aramark and deprives students of, uh, how shall we say.... a 'fundamental freedom'

What I am saying is that blatant rejection is a recipe to shoot yourself- and other students- in the foot. In other words, if this new code is fought tooth and nail to the point that it cannot be passed through, then we are FORCED to fall back upon outdated systems. We'll be left with the old code.

The first rule of improv is  
 'Yes AND...'

I suggest a position of yes AND- my concern is students becoming RE-actionary to administrative measures, instead of ACTIONARY in dreaming up and enacting better solutions.

The language in the code as it currently stands, puts students in a reactionary position... for example, the Administration SAYS that they won't retroactively revoke my degree because of some academic misunderstanding which they cannot prove.... but I can't know that this is true or not until a situation like that occurs, and then I have to REACT to it.

Back to the food system comparison:

It's as though a second corporate food provider had come and said, well we want this deal for the campus food system, but since we know you don't want the OTHER guys, we're going to agree to better standards of sustainability, local provision, etc etc etc. We're going to agree to let other systems who might be equipped to provide healthier food operate on campus alongside us, instead of holding a monopoly, etc etc etc.

OK, the new deal isn't perfect. But it's what is on the table right now. So don't shoot yourselves in the collective feet.

I think that a much better recipe is, yes to the code, and then: "This looks good but here's what else students want. I want the code to be a CONTINUING CONVERSATION. I want students to continue to

voice their concerns over the code, and to be heard. The school owes as much to its students, so lets make it happen."

What do you think?

On Wed, Nov 2, 2011 at 2:33 PM, Geoduck Union <[geoduckunion@evergreen.edu](mailto:geoduckunion@evergreen.edu)> wrote:

The Geoduck Student Union supports the right of students to the education they have already paid for. The current draft of the code allows the college to revoke a degree with a 'more likely than not' standard of proof. This is unacceptable. The GSU takes the issue of academic integrity seriously but the possibility of a degree being revoked under that standard is too great. If we as an institution are willing to revoke a graduate's degree, we should be absolutely certain that we are in the right to do so.

In Art Costantino's email to all students on October 26 he stated "the 'beyond a reasonable doubt' criterion is appropriate in cases where a person might be deprived of a fundamental freedom." Since degree revocation applies retroactively to an education in which students have invested years of their life and huge sums of money, we believe that revoking that investment is depriving students of a fundamental freedom. Standard courts, which use the beyond a reasonable doubt standard, often make decisions far less important than whether years of a student's life will be negated. When Evergreen is deciding issues of no real import, a more likely than not standard is acceptable, but not in this instance.

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## Joseph, Holly Colbert

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**From:** Seabert Olsen, Andrea  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 01, 2011 2:00 PM  
**To:** Joseph, Holly Colbert  
**Cc:** Endress, Wendy  
**Subject:** Conduct Code Public Hearing

Holly,

As the person collecting information as part of the public hearing process, I want to express my support and appreciation for the language in the proposed student conduct code. As the Grievance Officer and person who spends probably the most amount of time working with the code, I think the new language will help me be more effective in working with students. The updated language, greater clarity, and more defined process is good for students and good for the community.

Thanks you for collecting feedback.

Andrea Seabert

Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs for Student Conduct

## Joseph, Holly Colbert

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**From:** Philip Palios [pvpalios@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 01, 2011 5:21 PM  
**To:** Joseph, Holly Colbert  
**Subject:** Re: Public Hearing on Proposed Student Conduct Code

Dear Holly Colbert Joseph,

I'm a student at Evergreen but not sure if I will be able to make it to this hearing. Please accept this e-mail as my personal comment on the proposed Student Conduct Code.

I would like to specifically voice my support of the provisions providing for revocation of degrees based on evidence of academic dishonesty. When I learned that the Geoduck Student Union was opposed to this provision I was extremely surprised and wanted to ensure my voice was heard in dissent of the GSU stance. I believe that a student does not earn a degree for themselves unless they do so with their own work and degrees should be revoked if there is strong supporting evidence of academic dishonesty.

Furthermore, if the college were to not revoke degrees for students proven to have been in violation of this policy, it would damage the integrity of a degree from Evergreen for all students.

Thank you,

Philip Palios

On Thu, Dec 1, 2011 at 12:52 PM, Endress, Wendy <[wendressw@evergreen.edu](mailto:wendressw@evergreen.edu)> wrote:

Public Hearing on Proposed Student Conduct Code

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Seminar II A2107

Submit written comments to: Holly Colbert Joseph, The Evergreen State College, Library 3213, 2700 Evergreen Parkway N.W., Olympia, WA 98505, e-mail [colberth@evergreen.edu](mailto:colberth@evergreen.edu), fax (360) 867-6557, by December 6, 2011.

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact Wendy Endress by December 3, 2011, TTY [\(360\) 867-6834](tel:(360)867-6834) or [\(360\) 867-6291](tel:(360)867-6291).

For more information:

<http://www.evergreen.edu/committee/studentconduct/home.htm>

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/laws/wsr/2011/22/11-22-094.htm>

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**Wendy Endress** | Executive Associate to the Vice President for Student Affairs

3009 Library | 2700 Evergreen Parkway NW Olympia, WA 98505

p: [360.867.6291](tel:360.867.6291) | f: [360.867.6886](tel:360.867.6886)

[endressw@evergreen.edu](mailto:endressw@evergreen.edu) | <http://www.evergreen.edu/studentaffairs>

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