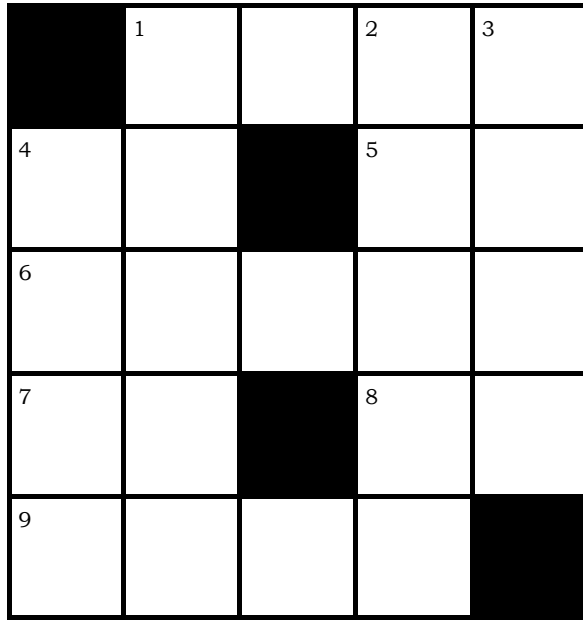


Puzzle Korner



Across

- 1 ____-Cola
4 On the other hand
5 Hello
6 Printed news
7 Asperand
8 Associates of Science
9 "...one giant ____ for mankind."

Down

- 1 Shipping container
2 Inexpensive
3 Broadcasts
4 Hydrated silica gemstone

■ D V E T
 S V ■ L V
 R E P V P
 I H ■ R O
 V C O C ■

8	1							6
9		6		4				8
				8	2	1	9	
			8	3	5	4	2	
5			9		4			3
	3	9	7	2	6			
	6	7	3	5				
1				9		6		2
3							8	7

What are all of these numbers and letters?



The Independent

PHILADELPHIA'S COLLEGE STUDENT NEWS

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Monday, January 27, 2025

Philadelphia, PA

Behind the Screens

Unreliable Tech & Fees, Take Advantage of Resources

CCP's Laptops for Success Program
& From the Email

Black Screens and Cheap Chargers: Why
Learning Lab Computers Fail Students

NERC Students Pay Tech Fee,
No Equal IT Service Access



— AND —

Student Representation

Updates from CCP Standing Committees

Standing committees at the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) are an outcome of shared governance, where students, faculty, and administrators shape policies that impact every aspect of campus life, to provide recommendations to higher levels of the administration where students and faculty have not had representation.

Meaningful student representation requires student participation as well as transparency and accountability from the administration.

The report covers updates from committee meetings on pages 2 & 3.

Institution-Wide Committee (IWC)

Meets fourth Monday of each month, 2:30 p.m. via Zoom

The IWC reviews and evaluates recommendations forwarded by standing committees, serving as the final checkpoint before decisions reach the College President. The most recent meeting was cancelled due to lack of committee activity.

Sub-Committee on Academic Support

Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 3:30 p.m. via Zoom

Administrators reported a significant shift in student preferences toward online classes since the pandemic. Prior to 2020, a large majority of classes were held in-person; now, most are online. In response to concerns about limited in-person options, a sub-sub-committee co-chaired by student delegate Eleanor Noszka-Kress and Dean of Student Success Michael Webber has been formed to evaluate class modalities and improve alignment with student needs.

Students expressed frustration over the lack of transparency in how and why classes are canceled. A suggestion was made to disclose enrollment thresholds for each course in the registration portal, allowing students to make informed decisions. A sub-sub-committee co-chaired by student delegate Hassel and Asst. VP of Enrollment Darren Lipscomb has been established to address this issue, with participation from both students and staff.

Standing Committee on Business Affairs

Meets second Wednesday of each month, 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

This committee handles policies and procedures related to campus operations and facilities.

Delegates discussed the difficulties new students face navigating the campus. While administrators touted the CCP app as a potential solution, students emphasized the need for physical directories and improved signage. Issues about college maps remains under consideration and may be reintroduced in February's meeting or in a small meeting between student delegates and Associate Vice President of Facilities & Construction John Wiggins.

Sub-Committee on Curriculum

Meets fourth Wednesday of each month, 3:30 p.m. via Zoom

According to Dr. Lisa Sanders, Dean of Liberal Studies, January's meeting was "cancelled due to lack of business. We are expecting to receive four curriculum projects to consider during February's meeting."

The administration's reluctance to embrace transparency and accountability is evident in procedural maneuvers, such as deflecting discussions on agenda items to other committees or categorizing decisions as "procedures" rather than "policies," reveal a calculated strategy to stifle meaningful progress. This pattern is broken only by the turbulence of incessant and informed student advocacy. Attempts to delay action and obscure responsibility are daily plays at a long-term waiting game for informed students to matriculate away and for the newer students to never care.

The lack of transparency further exacerbates student frustration. Critical decisions, like class cancellations or the tools for navigating campus, are often skillfully shrouded in ambiguity. The advocacy of student delegates in attendance this semester has led to tangible outcomes, such as the creation of sub-sub-committees to advocate for change on key issues like class modality and cancellations. When students take their place at the table, they force the administration to confront issues it might otherwise ignore. This momentum must continue and, yet intensify.

The future of our college is not shaped by the decisions of a select few but by the collective action of the community. Participation is not a favor to the institution; participation is a declaration that Philadelphia's higher education matters.

All committee meetings are open to the public. You can request Zoom links by emailing governance@ccp.edu. Scan this QR code to connect with those advocating on your behalf. Share your concerns, challenge complacency, and hold them accountable to the trust you place in them.



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CCP's Laptops for Success Program

Need a laptop that fits your student budget? Thanks to a partnership between Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) and PCs for People, you can get a refurbished laptop for as little as \$25—or \$50 if you don't qualify for certain financial aid.

If you receive a Federal Pell Grant: You're eligible to purchase a laptop for just \$25. Use the special coupon code CCP100, follow the instructions, and you're all set. That's a savings of up to \$100!

If you do not receive a Federal Pell Grant: No worries! You can still grab a laptop for \$50. Use the same CCP coupon code at check-out. Check to see if you have Pell with financialaid@ccp.edu

Every laptop comes with one year of technical support for hardware and pre-installed software, like Microsoft Word or PowerPoint.

If you run into any problems with your computer or the purchasing process, CCP's IT Services team is ready to assist: in Bonnell Building, Room B2-41.

Visit: www.pcsforpeople.org/ccpcomputers/

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From the People

The computers are starting to fall apart in my classroom in RM L1-18, which isn't far off from the learning lab in the library. Just yesterday, Thursday Jan 23rd, @ 11:20 AM, I sat in my seat and turned my computer on just to see specs all over the monitor screen. I checked other monitors and several of them had the same issue. I'm not sure why this institution can't help us where we need it, not where they want it.

Jar Hernandez-Orsini, SGA

At 11:15am [Jan. 22] Maria, the SGA Treasurer, told me that the administration doesn't want to work with President Frank or Vice President Jar. Maria was essentially trying to convince me not to work with Frank or Jar by saying that the administration has decided not to work with them. Maria said that because she works at the school she has inside sources telling her this. This behavior is very concerning, and I think it should be documented.

Abdul Al-Hourani, SGA

You criticizing the college is like a teenager c*ttng her wrists.

John Politis, Math Specialist

Black Screens and Cheap Chargers: Why Learning Lab Computers Fail Students

The computers in the Learning Lab on Main Campus of Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) are essential tools for students. Many of these machines are plagued by technical issues, forcing students to find another place to work outside the college's main study hub.

A significant number of Learning Lab computers frequently black out after a period of inactivity. The issue is most prevalent among the Dell 7070 Ultra computers, which are mounted on the backs of monitors. Students entering the lab from the 17th Street entrance near Saxby's often encounter these computers with blank, black screens.

This has frustrated students reliant on these computers, causing lost time and increased stress from the frequent blackouts. In contrast, the Dell OptiPlex 7050 towers, located toward the back of the Learning Lab near 16th Street, exhibit such issues far less often.

Some IT staff theorize that excessive data saved by multiple users causes the smaller and thinner 7070 Ultra computers to overheat. While plausible, this explanation falters because the computers'

memory is wiped during winter break, yet the blackouts persist in Spring semester. After all, the lifespan of a college computer is generally three to five years according to the Head of the Learning Lab Department. The Learning lab computers are all but pronounced dead.

Employees of the Learning lab frequently patrol the lab to reboot blacked-out computers. At any given time, about half of the lab's computers are non-functional. Once an employee makes it through all the problem computers, they will have to restart all over again.

The power adapters used by the Dell 7070 Ultra computers are the likely culprit, as a Learning Lab employee familiar with the technical issue noted. The computers are connected to a power source via cheap universal replacement chargers (SM65CL-01) that cost a third of the price of more reliable Dell chargers (LA65NS2-01) connected to some of the campus computers. When the college administration chooses to be frugal, students pay for the cheap replacement.

NERC Students Pay Tech Fee, Without Equal Access to IT Services

Students at the Northeast Regional Campus (NERC) are questioning whether they are receiving the same tech benefits as those on Main Campus. The technology fee applies to all students, regardless of campus, yet NERC does not have on-campus IT support.

All students at the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) are charged a \$30-per-credit technology fee to cover "institutional operating and equipment costs," according to the college website. On Main Campus, IT service professionals are available to fix computer issues in the classroom, ensuring that students and instructors can rely on technology functioning as intended during class. At NERC, however, equivalent in-person IT support is notably absent, according to employees familiar with the matter.

The absence of on-site support leaves NERC students with limited options when computer problems arise. While remote assistance may be available, it cannot match the immediacy and effectiveness of in-person help during class.

"Why am I paying the fee if I [am not] getting anything for it?"

asked one CCP student at NERC, who preferred to remain anonymous. "This school is crazy."

The college's operating budget for the fiscal year outlines the allocation of the technology fee, which totals \$7,669,137. Of this, an estimated \$5,238,777 is designated for "technology leases and software maintenance," according to the operating budget's non-salary expenditures. Despite this substantial funding, NERC lacks a consistent, dedicated IT presence to address students' and instructors' immediate maintenance needs.

An anonymous source employed by the college and familiar with IT operations confirmed the disparity in service. "I've been there that day when someone important enough complains," the employee explained. However, for routine complaints from students or faculty, there is no guaranteed timeframe nor expectation of timeliness.

Another employee, also asking to remain anonymous, acknowledged the administration's apparent carelessness. "It may be next day," they added with a shrug and a suggestive laugh. "It may."

The lack of transparency surrounding the use of the technology fee, combined with unequal access to services, has left some students frustrated and questioning the fairness of the charge. Addressing these disparities and improving communication about how funds are allocated could help rebuild student trust and ensure that all campuses receive equitable support.

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Black Screens and Cheap Chargers cont...

"You can buy these at 7/11," says our employee source.

Reviews of the SM65CL-01 highlight durability issues. As one Amazon reviewer, Deja, noted, "It's an amazing charger while it lasts, but not worth the constant need to repurchase it." These chargers, suitable for light personal use, struggle to meet the demands of a busy computer lab. The ineffective chargers fail to consistently supply enough power, causing the computers to enter a deep sleep mode.

For many CCP students who commute and may lack personal computers, the Learning Lab's reli-

ability is crucial. The blackouts hinder their ability to access online resources and complete homework, creating avoidable barriers to academic success.

CCP must invest its excessive budget surpluses into reliable equipment to ensure students have the tools necessary to succeed. Solutions include replacing the SM65CL-01 chargers with higher-quality models and reassessing the replacement of Dell 7070 Ultra computers.

The college's Board of Trustees has the authority to approve such changes. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2025, and all meetings allow time for public comments. Students and faculty should seize this opportunity to voice concerns and advocate for improvements. The tools meant to empower students must not continue to fail them.

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