

History of Clubs at Rock Creek

Written by Mandy Ellertson

Since Rock Creek's inception in 1976, a slow movement transpired to develop a student leadership program. Academic foundations and facilities took precedence over any sort of student life. What existed in relationship to Student Organizations and Clubs, did so due to the commitment of staff and faculty.

Club Roots in the Professional Technical Programs and Art Department – Established in the 1980s

The original student organizations and clubs at PCC Rock Creek found homes in the professional technical programs. The SODA (Student Organized Diesel Association 1980s) boasts the longest running club on campus. The Vet Tech Club (Veterinary Technology 1996), NKAB (National Kitchen and Bath Association 1999) and the Potter's Guild (Art/Ceramics – not sure but probably in the early 90s) all thrived continuously for years because a faculty or staff member made sure the students received guidance and support. The early Student Leadership Program provided little support until college budget authorities determined that no club or organization could have an off campus account.

Phi Theta Kappa – the 2 year honor society - submitted an application for charter in 1996 and received its chapter name "Beta Gamma Lambda". This club has gone on to garner a large number of members as well as receive 3 or 4 star ratings in the past. However, it has not been active for the past couple of years and needs a push. Other campuses pay their PTK officers in an attempt to jump-start the club. This is an organization that has been on the radar of every campus president and can be a political haymaker or a point of humiliation for the department.

Faculty/Staff Outstanding Advisors to the Clubs:

SODA: Russ Dunnington (before Russ, it was....)

Vet Tech – Delores Galindo

Potter's Guild – Michael Robinson and Ritchie Bellinger

NKAB – Spencer Hinkle

Identity Based Clubs - 1994

In the late 80s and early 90s, Washington County began experiencing the influx of immigrants and ethnic groups. Early efforts to help these new community members began with ESL (English as a Second Language) and

ENNL (English for Non Native Language speakers which was a CREDIT transfer program). The chair of the department – Toni Garreton – wanted more for these students who she characterized as “lost, lonely, and disconnected”. To combat this issue, Toni and I established an International Student Organization in 1994. This organization brought together everyone who may now associate more with the International Students Department or the Multicultural Center (none of these departments existed in 1994).

This club members played games initially, but began to have higher aspirations. They fundraised to travel all over Oregon and in 1996 went to Disneyland on Spring Break. This desire to do more than meet on campus to talk about common interests led to establishing a club base budget and a system of charting on campus.

We know this club met the needs of this growing population at Rock Creek because the journals submitted to faculty revealed a new connection to the college as well as psychological lift in the spirits of our second language/immigrant population.

As PCC Rock Creek became more diverse, several other organizations established themselves. We have had a Black Student Union, a MeCHA, Somalian Student Association, Muslim Student Association, Christian Clubs (they come in some shape or form every year), and a Gay Straight Alliance. The GSA has been ongoing now for seven years because Judy Zimmerman and myself shared the responsibility to keep it going. David Martinez became involved in 2009 and Josh Peters McBride in 2011. This continuity led to establishing a Q Center in 2011. A similar trajectory can be said for the Multicultural Center as it developed through the championship of Narce Rodriguez, but had its humble origins through the International Student Club.

The Veterans Resource Center also founds its beginnings in a club. The club empowered the students who went on to demand that their population receive additional support. Kristen Martin acted as the club coordinator in 2009-2010 and helped this group of student establish the center.

Recreational Based Clubs

In the 1980s, PCC supported 3 inter collegiate sports teams – Basketball at Cascade, Soccer at Sylvania, and Volleyball at Rock Creek). Prior to 1992, the college dropped the funding for these sports (except for Basketball because Board Member Harold Williams championed the program). At RC, there was interest in maintaining club sports. The Volleyball Club was active in 1994, and has come and gone since that time. Soccer, Basketball,

and Flag Football have always had a following too, but never established itself on an ongoing basis.

The Outdoor Recreation Club has functioned as a District Club under the guidance of David Hall for over 10 years and the Dragon Boat Team has also been in existence for over 20 years. Both of these groups function more on the district level. However, Outdoor Rec. charters on each campus.

Once a true student center/game room was established at PCC in 2005, other clubs emerged like the Pool Club, Table Tennis, Foos Ball, and the infamous Gaming associations.

The Student Leaders, in 2008, proposed an increase in the Student Activity Fee to support a Club Sports program. The administration rejected the proposal. See attached proposal for details.

Social Organizations

A variety of interest based social organizations have come and gone over the years. From knitting to a smoker's group – you name it, we have worked on it. The longest organization (loosely) is the “Goof Off” club – an organization that found itself in the mall area of building two and migrated over to the student center when we opened. They have been in existence for over 9 years.

Staffing - Club and Program Specialist

During the 2004 Student Leadership Review, it was recommended that PCC investigate hiring a professional staff member to work with the clubs and programs. Sylvania had already hired the first Club and Program Specialist with their SAF budget on a part time basis. Their club program blossomed and it was determined that a staff member would greatly increase the activity and continuity of our clubs and programs.

At Rock Creek the student Clubs and Programs have seen an increase in club activity since 2009. We doubled the number of clubs, increased the club budgets, and the activity level.

Rock Creek Club and Program Specialists supported by the Student Act. Fee. The position history is listed below.

2007 Patrick Tangredi at half time or .5 FTE

2008 Sydney Eustrom full time because the position was vacant for ½ the year

2009 Kristen Martin at .75 FTE
2010 Vacant from August to December
2011 Joshua Peters McBride at a temporary 1.0 FTE because the position had been vacant ½ the year
2012 The position will be 1.0 FTE.... the selection committee for this position is in the process of hiring a permanent person. Part of the responsibility is to coordinate the Q Center. We have a ½ support Q Center staff member that is funded by the general fund.

Processes

1995 – A formal Club Charter Process formulated
1995 – Club start up fees instituted – originally \$75 per club
1998 – Service Project funding begins originally \$200/club/project/term
1998 – Club Representatives positions on the Student Congress receiving \$100/quarter tuition waiver.
2002 – Student staff position dedicated to Clubs and Organizations
2007 – Club and Program Specialist

Activities

- *Club Fair* – 16 Year every quarter tradition
- *Club Olympics* – Popular in the late 90s and revived by Tangredi in 2007
- *International Student Showcase* – Identity Based clubs and ENNL tag team to make this event happen since 1996. The Multicultural Center took it on in 2007 or 08.
- *Clubs Can!* – Club participation in the MLK Day On established by Eustrom in 2009
- *Clubhouse* – official name of the Club Program at Rock Creek christened by Eustrom
- *Club Awards* – Established by Eustrom in 2009
- *Rock Creek's Got Talent* - - Club Talent show established by Martin in 2009 and 2010
- *Club Task Force* – established in 2010 by Martin
- *District Club Convention* – Established by Peters McBride in conjunction with Ellertson, Arthur, and Seely in 2011

Summary

The heart of the Rock Creek Clubs and Organizations remains constant as an opportunity for our student population to connect with others who share

academic, identity-based, recreational or social interests. The change lies in the infrastructure, support, and interests of the student body. Support and infrastructure has been essential in order for the club program to thrive and grow. Without the funding and staff support the club program would not be where it is today – a program with over 1500 participants who have found a community at home at Rock Creek.