**New Printing Policies cause Mixed Emotions among Students**

Longwood has instituted a change in their policy regarding printing in the library and any other on campus computing labs. The changes, which took effect on January 18, the beginning of the spring 2011 semester, mandate that all printing fees must now be paid for with Lancer CA$H.

Lancer CA$H, which is a type of prepaid debit account that was specifically designed for the Longwood community, was developed to provide the flexibility in payment and the convenience of a debit card for use at on and off campus locations.

Since it was first introduced about a year and a half ago, Lancer CA$H has been more widely accepted both on and off campus. The increased usage of Lancer CA$H may have contributed to its use as payment for printing fees. Librarian Liz Kocevar-Weiding spoke about the changes,

“What many people don’t realize is that the printing changes are not made by the library; when the school decided to charge for printing, that decision came from the Information and Instructional Technology Services office, and the decision to use Lancer CA$H as the payment instead of billing student accounts came from the Lancer Card office.”

Before these policy changes, any printing fees and charges that a student accrued would be billed to the student’s account; and while the method of payment for these printing charges has changed, the price per page printed has remained the same. Photocopies cost $0.08 cents per page to print; and it still costs $0.09 cents per page to print in black and white from computers, and $1.00 per page in color.

Changes to the printing charge policy are nothing new to older students. In the past few years, the policy has changed quite a bit:

Prior to the fall 2008 semester, printing quotas in the library and computer labs were managed by a preset number of pages that Longwood students could print for free, and would be charged for any pages that were printed after the limit was reached.

Starting in fall 2008, the printing policy was changed to have the quota in a dollar amount and not number of sheets as it has been in the past. Students received a quota of $13.50 which was the equivalent of 150 sheets of black and white ink for printing in the fall and spring semesters.

As a direct result of increased budget cuts in 2009, Longwood was forced to do away with the free printing. It was at this time that the students began being charged to print in the library and in any other on campus computer labs, and the current printing fees were put into place.

While to some students the new changes may not seem to be a big stretch from the previous printing policy, many of Longwood’s students have mixed emotions about the policy changes. Samantha Steuber, a senior, felt that the changes made are not for the better. She voiced her concerns;

“I really don’t think that it is fair. Even though they used to put a hold that kept me from registering or dropping any classes on my account if I had unpaid printing charges, I still think that was a better billing system than using Lancer CA$H. The new policy makes it much less convenient because you have to run around campus to load money onto your Lancer CA$H account, or have pay a $2 processing fee in order to add money to your account online.”

Even though the switch to Lancer CA$H may be an inconvenience to some students, others prefer the new policy over the old one. Shawn Burr, a junior, defended the recent change and explained why he felt the changes were for the better,

“I really just don’t see what the big deal is; I like the new way better. I would always forget that I had unpaid charges until the night I could sign up for classes and then I would end up not being able to register because of a $0.72 hold on my account. I also like the fact that I can add money to my Lancer CA$H account with a credit card online whenever I want instead of having to go to cashiering or the student union.”