



Government Shutdown: Reasons and Repercussions

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On Oct. 1, a partial federal government shutdown occurred, the first in nearly two decades. In the past, there have been 17 U.S. government shutdowns, which is when expendable government services are closed. A few hours before the deadline, the House Republican leader won approval to enact a new plan to connect further government spending to a one-year delay in a requirement that individuals purchase health insurance. However, 57 minutes later, the Senate terminated the House health care provisions and sent the bill back, leaving the federal government unable to fund itself.

“The problem here is that we can’t [repeal Obamacare] unless some of our friends on the other side are prepared to step up and work with us on this issue. That doesn’t mean we’ll give up the fight if they don’t. We won’t. There are a lot of other things we can do in the meantime,” Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said, as stated

in the Huffington Post. GOP has stated that the budget and debt ceiling disagreement has caused Congress to reach a budget impasse due to a difference in opinion in how Obamacare should be funded. The Republicans oppose Obamacare because they believe it will increase health care cost, cause insurance premiums to rise, hurt the quality of health care, add over \$500 billion to the deficit and cause nearly \$570 billion in tax hikes.

According to New York Times, the government needed to agree on a budget to finance government programs by Oct. 1. Since

no legislation was passed to continue funding the government, the federal government ultimately

needs to be met is the debt limit deadline, when America will have exhausted its emergency borrowing measure, causing the U.S. to have less than \$30 billion to pay for the nation’s bills, unless Congress raises its legal debt limit, which is the maximum amount the government can borrow.

“The Democrats and Republicans are too entrenched in their ways to compromise; they care more about destroying the other party and winning the next elections,” Government and Economics teacher Paul

include anything related to national security, public safety or programs written into permanent law, such as Social Security, will not be able to carry on in an event of a government shutdown.

“[What] really shuts down are national parks or [businesses] that do not have [reserve] funding. I don’t expect a total shutdown of everything; it is just portrayed like that,” Government and Economics teacher Johnnie Lau said.

The midnight deadline on Oct. 1 had lawmakers attempting to finish a stopgap bill to avoid a partial government shutdown, according to Toledo Blade. Inevitably, the partial shutdown occurred and put hundreds of thousands of federal workers at risk of losing their jobs.

“Instead of continually passing legislation that only provides quick fixes, comprehensive reform in the budget is needed,” senior Andrew Quach said. “The only realistic way to solve our problems is to pass legislation that will give just a little more time for us to find a balanced approach to spending cuts and tax increases.”

BRIEFING:

- The House and Senate cannot compromise over whether to fund Obamacare.
- Government shutdown will not stop Obamacare from occurring.
- Each year, the House and Senate has to approve 12 bills that will fund federal agencies and set spending principles that will help them operate. If Congress can’t agree on how to allocate funding, they will close down.
- The U.S. military air traffic control, emergency medical care, food safety inspections, border patrol, federal prisons, law enforcement, emergency and disaster assistance, Postal Service and Federal Reserve will still run.
- To end a government shutdown, Congress needs to pass a bill that the White House must sign.

shut down after the termination of previous funding. The second deadline, set on Oct. 17, that

Stein said. CNN has stated that any government functions that do not

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO



Cheating Commonplace Among College Students

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Staff Writer

The old saying goes, “Cheaters never prosper.” But is this really true in the context of academics? Despite school officials’ condemning attitudes toward academic dishonesty, it has always been a pervasive factor of scholastic life, from within lowly high schools to prestigious universities like Harvard.

In an extensive study from 2002-2010 led by Donald McCabe, Ph.D, about two-thirds of the college students that were surveyed admitted to cheating on past tests and assignments.

The issue of cheating was brought to public attention in mid-2012 through a widely publicized scandal where many Harvard students were suspended after evidence surfaced that they had collaborated with others on a take-home test.

“[The decision was fair] because people, especially in Harvard, should get by through their own means. They got into [a] great school so they should be honest about their work,” sophomore Ares Ton-That said.

Some were not surprised about the outcome of the Harvard scandal, as they acknowledged that cheating is commonplace among students.

“People are not afraid to cheat, because who’s going to know? [Teachers] shouldn’t have so much faith in students,” sopho-

more Vivian Tran said.

According to the American Psychological Association (APA), one of the reasons students cheat is the increasing pressure to succeed academically in order to get into a good college and ultimately land a satisfying job.

Another factor is peer influence. Cognitive psychologist David Rettinger discussed in his 2009 study “Research in Higher Education” how students look to their peers for cues to decide which behaviors are acceptable and which are not.

“People expect their friends to always have their backs when they need it, even [through] cheating [for them]. There’s a point [when] a friend just has to say ‘stop,’” freshman Tracy Duong said.

Different approaches have been suggested to combat cheating. One proposal is to modify courses and teaching methods so students would not feel the need to cheat.

According to James M. Lang, writer for the TIME Magazine, infrequent assessments put great importance on only a few opportunities to earn grades, boosting the incentive to cheat. In addition, research in an article from TIME called “The Psychology of Academic Cheating,” published in 2006, revealed that students cheat less when the teacher puts more importance on understanding the material rather than on earning good grades.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO

Implementation of Minecraft in Education

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Minecraft, a game created by Markus Persson, gained its popularity among the youth, which has caused some teachers to look more closely at the video game.



Some educators claim that Minecraft has helped with teaching students art, geography and architecture by giving pupils the chance to learn in a virtual world.

However, there are some drawbacks to implementing Minecraft in the classroom. Playing a video game in order to learn skills at schools rely on the students’ amount of

self-control and obedience; this may be considered a risky factor.

“[Implementing Minecraft] won’t be effective because [most] students will simply play Minecraft for the sake of playing, instead of learning the skills that Minecraft can teach,” freshman Tom Cheah said.

The implementations of Minecraft in the classroom all started with Joel Levin, who first introduced the game to his second grade computer class as a way to teach the kids about real life scenarios. Since then, he has helped co-found MinecraftEDU, which

consists of a team of educators and programmers whose goal is to bring Minecraft to the classroom.

“We strongly feel that Minecraft is a fantastic tool for a broad range of subjects ranging from Computer Science to Art to Social Studies,” Levin said.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO