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Chancellor Watson, Chairman Gidwitz, Members of the Board, Good Morning. I am Susan Tyma, President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 3506, the Adult Educators and Coordinators of the Adult Learning Skills Program or A.L.S.P. I am here to deliver a message on behalf of my members about the future directions for A.L.S.P. and our message is a simple one: we seek equity for A.L.S.P.

For many years, several chancellors and a couple of chairmen of the board, I have been pursuing this goal. I reiterate a question I have posed here over those years- when will A.L.S.P. become a full -fledged member of the City Colleges' family and cease to be treated like the freckled stepchild?

Believe it or not, I am not just speaking solely for the benefit of my members but for the entire institution. Imagine a future direction that recognizes the importance of A.L.S.P. as the broadest bridge possible feeding students into all other City Colleges programs. For the vast multitude of Chicagoans out there lacking adequate education and job skills, A.L.S.P. is the only link that takes them from a life of almost no options nor opportunities and connects them to one of realizing their true potential. But instead of forging A.L.S.P. into the strongest link possible, it's as if it's all held together with a bent and broken safety pin that keeps popping open and sticking what it should be connecting.

After all, how many times have opportunities been pulled out from under A.L.S.P. students? There were the thousands who were lost in the alleged Focus on Quality that closed hundreds of sites. Most recently at Malcolm X, half of the coordinators were laid off and all the Adult Educators working maximum hours had their hours cut by one third. Consequently, all the classes that went with those hours were closed. Hundreds were left out in the cold because of budget problems we were told.

Malcolm X could afford a quarter of a million to renovate a cafeteria and \$200,000 to repair an exterior deck but could not afford to keep A.L.S.P. classes open. Budget problems, of course, are not limited to Malcolm X. The district grossly overspent on the construction of new facilities which sat nearly empty until A.L.S.P. was later allowed in and put hundreds of students in the vacant classrooms.

In addition, the district's monthly invoice for outside legal counsel is now consistently six figures for a total of well over four million dollars in the past couple years. Also, the installation of voice and data cabling across the district has cost almost two and a half million dollars. That's practically your budget deficit right there.

This is not the future direction that we want to see. Instead there should be a radical redirection of resources to education. Have you forgotten that that's what we're here for? Consider such a redirection as an investment in the institution's future.

First of all, return funding generated by A.L.S.P. back to A.L.S.P. Then, make sure that all the possible funding for A.L.S.P. has been obtained. Previous incompetent directors of the program short-changed A.L.S.P. of millions of dollars of funding it deserved - more than enough to wipe out your budget deficit. Typically, A.L.S.P. did not even get administrators who could correctly fill in the papers to get all the money it had coming.

Last year, the district opted to double the length of the A.L.S.P. module cutting in half the number of times students can enter or re-enter the system. We tried to explain that this was not in the best interests of the students. But administrators with political connections, be they by blood or marriage, were able to push their agenda. Has anyone counted how much funding has been and will continue to be lost while some egos have been fed?

Look at how A.L.S.P. is still treated. Last week at City Hall, one alderman shared how he tried to help a constituent register for GED classes and what a challenge it was just to get information about the classes. Why is it that A.L.S.P. continues to be such a hot secret and is not mentioned on Channel 20?

The most glaring example is of our sub-status is at Daley College where our classes are relegated to mobile classrooms at the far end of the property while the parking lot is way over on the other side of the bridge over 75th Street, a delightful walk in the winter, I am sure. Still prospective A.L.S.P. students line up at 5:00 in the morning to try to get a limited spot in the A.L.S.P. classes. That is, unless they plunk down \$65 dollars and take a GED or ESL class through the Continuing Ed. department and go directly into the main building right next to the parking lot. After all, the brochure says, "Everything you need to know to pass the test in 6 weeks."

City Colleges should be meeting the needs of the taxpayers. A.L.S.P. is the greatest mechanism to meet those needs. To toy with those needs by playing around with the supply during a burgeoning demand is inexcusable. A.L.S.P. - both students AND employees deserve to be treated decently.

But we are mired in a game of semantics - we're just "part-time."

We get paid approximately three minutes of prep time per hour - less than fifteen minutes for a four hour class. Have you any idea how many times my dean tries to spend that prep time? More and more the district's need for accountability has fallen into the laps of my members, most of the time without compensation.

Now's your chance to show that A.L.S.P. is indeed an integral part of the City Colleges' picture. In a broad sense, we are currently in negotiations in that we have met exactly one time. Our petition for negotiations went in months ago. In March, we requested a meeting about the current budget. It was finally set for May 27 but the key staff could not attend and management tried to cancel that morning.

We met anyway, but we got no answers and were told budget information wouldn't be available until July. Our contract was to expire June 30, but we were informed at that one negotiating session on June 19 that we were running out of time but that we'd get a 30 day extension to the contract. Our next session is not until July 16. Don't you think that's dancing on the edge of bargaining in good faith?

Please look beyond your petty power plays and you shall see that ALL of us - students, employees, employers, all Chicagoans - we are ALL winners when you truly adopt a stance of Equity for A.L.S.P.