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*FCCCC President's Address
to the CCC Board of Trustees
Thursday, October 1, 1998*

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- Good morning. Chairman Gidwitz, members of the Board, Chancellor Watson, Officers of the District, and all others present.
- Last Thursday, Council Vice President Bob Grimes, Secretary Barbara Washington, and I met with Vice Chancellor Deidra Lewis and Associate Vice Chancellor Bernard Ferreri.. Among matters taken up were the following.
 - The draft version of a flowchart and revised procedures for Curriculum and Program Development Proposals were approved for forwarding to Vice Presidents of the District for their review. Further procedural refinements and editing may be suggested by the Vice Presidents, after which Council and the Office of Academic Affairs will have an opportunity for additional input before the final version is approved by the District Office.
 - The Faculty Rank Promotion Application Form was discussed. It needs amendment. So far there was agreement that: (1) a number of procedural elements that had been part of the old application form will be restored; (2) evaluation criteria accompanying the old form also need to be restored; and (3) guidelines for the applicant essay, a new requirement in the latest form, need changes to allow applicants more freedom in structuring the essay and defining its scope. Also, it was agreed that Council officers will work with counselors and librarians to develop essay guidelines appropriate to their professional duties.
 - Computerized Placement testing for incoming students was discussed insofar as its potential value.
 - Academic Standards were addressed again as they relate to raising student performance. Complex issues associated with the setting of reliable standards for this purpose were examined. It was acknowledged that the development of standards in this area must be faculty driven, if they are to succeed.
- In my view, the District Office and the faculty must overlook no opportunity and spare no effort to help our students to improve their academic performance. There is a rush nationally to experiment with the development of exit competencies and to institute exit testing for general education courses at the community college level as a way to raise student performance. It may be that some progress will result from this effort. In the end, however, I am convinced that the solution will be found mainly in the classroom between the student and the instructor. Beyond this we have to ensure that our students come to us with a better foundation. Once they arrive we must challenge them to excel.
 - The Colleges' program with the Chicago Public Schools in recruiting better-prepared and more highly motivated students is crucial to producing CCC graduates recognized for a high degree of competency. The recently announced program with the Chicago Fire and Police Departments which aims to bring us better prepared students is exciting and bound to be fruitful.
 - Establishing honors programs at each of the City Colleges would also motivate our students. Presently, Professor Judith Schust is coordinating the planning of an honors program at Harold Washington College which shows promise.
- On a different note, I would like to acknowledge Don Smith's long years of service to CCC faculty in a variety of administrative posts. Since the last Board Meeting, when it was officially announced that he was retiring, many faculty have told me how sorry they are to see him leave. He will be missed. We wish him well and hope he thoroughly enjoys whatever path he chooses to follow in the future.


Sal Attinello