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## AFSCME LOCAL 3506

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Council 31

### City Colleges of Chicago Board Meeting

December 5, 2003

Chairman Tyree, Chancellor Watson, Board Members, Educators and Businesspersons: Good morning, I am Michael McHugh, the newly-elected president of AFSCME Local Union 3506, representing 750 plus Adult Educators and Coordinators of the City Colleges of Chicago.

We bring ourselves in front of you today to let our side of the story be told and to persuade your sensibilities. As you know, Malcolm X College has suspended its Department of Corrections Adult Education program until at least March, 2004. This suspension will result in the loss of 40 jobs for our teachers for more than six months.

In March, 2001, Associate Vice-Chancellor Valerie Roberson, received an audit of the Malcolm X/DOC Adult Education program from Taylor Cisco, a Program Compliance Officer from Control Accounting. In the findings of the audit, "grave discrepancies were discovered," such as class conflicts with IDOC inmates, misclassification of teaching modes, unclassified course conjunctions, etc. As a result of these findings, then Malcolm X Dean Jose Diaz initiated an Adult Education Restructuring Plan and had to shorten the Spring 2001 semester by four weeks.

Since that time, Dean Lizzette Richardson and President Zerrie Campbell unilaterally shut down the Malcolm X/DOC Adult Education program as of September 2, 2003 due to the same reason, "restructuring," as two and a half years prior. The union's question is what did management do to try to address the 2001 audit's recommendations? And, if the current Dean and Adult Education manager had only been physically present at the prison only at most, two to three times each in the year before this recent suspension, how could they effectively manage and oversee the program correctly? In the past two years, the inmates had been going through the necessary sixteen-week course, only to find out that the GED test was not available to

be taken on a decent time frame. How would you like to keep taking classes and find out that you couldn't take the certification completion test?

It is our assertion that the problem is not totally restructuring, but mismanagement. This DOC program had been running fine for twenty-eight years with exceptional GED graduation rates. Our fine, dedicated teachers went through extreme conditions, such as teaching through bars, lock-down times, and rats on their feet. These 40 teachers have given their hearts and souls to their jobs, only to get three weeks notice with two of the weeks non-paid between semesters. A negative externality is the roughly 1000 inmates who are not receiving their education.

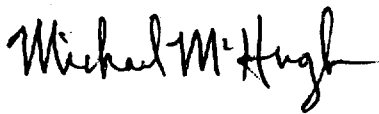
The union has filed an unfair labor practice (ULP) on the grounds that City Colleges of Chicago violated the contract, not giving the union advanced notice of a change in working conditions.

What we would like to see is an expedient return to a sizeable DOC Adult Education program, hardship pay for the affected teachers, and availability for all affected teachers to be reassigned to the various City Colleges of Chicago campuses.

Please take heed that there is a family aspect to the business of education.

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Michael McHugh  
AFSCME 3506 President

Cc: Chairman James Tyree  
Chancellor Wayne Watson  
Vice Chancellor Valerie Roberson  
Associate General Counsel Joseph Moriarty  
AFSCME Council 31 Representative Michael Ross