

26620

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

MARCH 3, 2005

Wilbur Wright College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

4300 North Narragansett Avenue
Chicago, IL 60634-1591

Main Office, 773/777-7900; Admissions, 481-8200; Financial Aid, 481-8100;
Business Services, 481-8500; Continuing Education, 481-8800; ALSP/GED, 481-8821;
Humboldt Park Vocational Educational Center, 489-8989

Address to Board of Trustees
March Meeting
Thursday, March 3, 2005

Greetings, Chairman Tyree, Chancellor Watson, members of the Board, Officers of the District and all others present.

Last month I presented to the Board an overwhelming vote of no confidence by the faculty directed toward the chancellor: 360 voted no confidence in the leadership of the chancellor; five voted against the no-confidence vote, and fourteen abstained. Your response was unanimous support in the performance of the chancellor. Indeed, one member even suggested that the faculty might have been bamboozled, despite your admission that even some of the officers of the district had spoken against your policies.

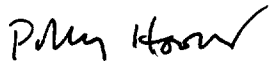
I subsequently took your response back to the faculty, and they responded with puzzlement and anger. They have felt and continue to feel that it is the chancellor and the Board of Trustees that are out of touch with the feelings of the students, the teachers and many of the administrators, not that faculty have somehow been bamboozled.

I am sure that we all feel that it is critical for the health of the City Colleges that we find a way to reconcile our respective and disparate points of view. I wish that you could make us understand why it is so critically important to you to cut off the most experienced and the most dedicated members of our team. I wish that you could understand the depth and extent of the anger of the faculty. The faculty continue to teach their courses and to prepare their student, but we are still very angry at the lack of leadership, still very disturbed by the disconnect between faculty and administration, still resolved to bring back the emeriti faculty and adjuncts who honored our picket lines. This isn't going to go away because you wish it so.

Although we have had an additional vote with equally overwhelming results in no confidence in Chairman Tyree and the members of the Board, I don't know that it would do any good to present you with the numbers. I don't think we can resolve these issues by continuing to exchange charges.

We need to address this disconnect among faculty, administration and the Board. I invite you, members of the Board of Trustees, to take the time to commission an impartial study to address these issues. I further invite you to come to the colleges and to talk to the faculty, the students, the staff, and the administration, and to learn the depth of our feelings and our resolve. To pretend that this will just go away only deepens the divide.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Polly Hoover", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Polly Hoover
President of Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago