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**RICHARD J. DALEY COLLEGE**

ONE OF THE CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

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FCCCC President's Address  
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting  
Thursday, November 3, 2005

Chairman Tyree, Chancellor Watson, members of the Board, Officers of the District, faculty, staff and all others present: Good morning!

And what a wonderful morning. I never believed that seven words could sound so sweet: *The Chicago White Sox: World Series Champions*. It's a rare and beautiful thing when an event such as this can bring an entire city together...well, half the city. But I know that we White Sox fans feel for our Cubs friends and wish them the best in their quest for the elusive World Series. It's easy to feel magnanimous: we got there first.

At our October meeting of the Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago (known by the acronym FC4), we discussed the make-up of the Council itself vis-à-vis our constitution and discovered what we instinctively knew: the Council's current membership is underrepresented from every campus. I began to wonder why we had so few. After all, we meet once a month for a couple of hours, a lunch is provided and it is a good opportunity to share the news and compare notes about each campus. In sum, it's good camaraderie.

In theory, elections are held every spring, platforms are created and candidates promote their agendas. Every campus has two elected and one appointed member from the local faculty councils. The three campuses with the most full-time faculty receive an additional elected seat. In all, the FC4 should have twenty-four members. Today, we are lucky to have half that at each meeting.

The issue of lack of representation on the FC4 speaks to larger issues within the CCC: the lack of full-time faculty. Looking back to when the Faculty Council was created thirty-five years ago, there were nearly three times as many full-time faculty that we have now. There was enough faculty to staff the numerous governing committees, including the FC4, without fatigue setting in.

Now, with a third of the faculty and an ever-increasing teaching load, the model of shared governance that the City Colleges purports to employ as the ideal for how things should run is skewed heavily towards administration. Faculty hears the buzzwords – "shared governance" but, honestly, I'm afraid that faculty is becoming increasingly frustrated because "shared governance" seems to be an empty slogan.

Two examples come mind. At Daley a new time grid was created for the spring 2006 schedule, adding an additional night class by simply reducing the passing period from fifteen to ten minutes. This change was held up as a great example of how shared governance works and should work. Let's be frank: it's a time grid. Useful? Absolutely. Was there participation across

the college? Yes. Is this “shared governance?” Not exactly. It’s an example of “little ‘s’” shared governance: it was a minor decision that, in the end, caused no one any discomfort or problems.

However, when the issue is greater and genuine disagreement exists, the reality is that shared governance is tossed out in favor of edicts from on high. The most current example is the proposed changes to the Math Department pre-credit and developmental credit courses. Without bogging down in minutiae, six of the seven chairs have rejected some or all the changes. They have presented their reasoning based on years of teaching experience, statistics, data and being on the proverbial front lines yet their collective wisdom is readily dismissed as being anti-change. Remember, they are the teachers and the experts who put into practice in their classrooms on a daily basis what they know. Their opinions deserve greater respect.

You see, “capital ‘S’” Shared governance requires true leadership. Sometimes things just aren’t going to go the way you want and it’s not necessarily because one side is unreasonably obstinate. No, legitimate disagreements should exist and be evaluated on their own merits. I think that we tend to forget that democracy, for all its wonderful attributes, is essentially a messy and cacophonous affair. Multiple voices compete to be heard; it gets loud.

So I hope that the faculty’s collective voice is heard today. And, once again, I would like to extend an invitation to our Board of Trustees to attend one of our monthly Faculty Council meetings that are held every third Wednesday at Malcolm X College at 3:00 PM. November’s meeting is on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to contact me for specific details. We’d like for you to participate in our forum and add your voice to our ongoing discussions.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Lakin  
President, FCCCC