

June 20, 2007 – District 508 Board Meeting
District Wide Faculty Council Report
Presented by Julius Nadas,
Secretary of the Faculty Council of Chicago City Colleges

Mr. Chairman, Trustees, Dr. Watson, and friends,

I wish to present a brief faculty perspective on the District's accomplishments relative to the Curricunet Software.

The CCC, like all of higher education in this country, is faced with many challenges. In the area of academic excellence we have initiated an academic recalibration effort and are reassessing the student learning outcomes for all of our courses to make them more transparent to our students, to our faculty, and to the institutions with whom we articulate. In conjunction with this effort we are also providing guidance to the CPS to help them align their High School curriculum with our college expectations. This recalibration effort requires that we revise and renew existing courses as well as add new courses which will better prepare our students for their jobs and for their transfer into four year programs.

Several years ago we recognized that the process associated with revising existing courses and introducing new courses was extremely burdensome. It was taking about two years for a faculty member from the time a new courses was conceived to the time it would show up in the classroom. We analysed the process and found that there are very many steps for it to work its way through our seven college district and be approved by ICCB, the Illinois Community College Board. These steps could not be reduced, however we found that the approval management process was not under control. It was very difficult for the primary advocate, the faculty member who was proposing the course to keep track of where the course was in the approval process.

A company called Governet approached the district with a proposal for implementation of a course approval management software system called Curricunet which would enable a faculty member to create a new course or to modify an existing course using on line templates. Once the new course had been entered into their system, the program identifies and orchestrates the steps in the required approval process.

The system was purchased about two years ago and placed into production last September. Since that time the faculty have successfully used it to create dozens of new and revised courses and programs of study. We are eagerly awaiting the next step in the process when ICCB is electronically connected to our system and the approval process will no longer require the paper transmission of new courses to Springfield. We expect that this final step will be completed in August at which time it will only take one semester to bring a new course from conception to the classroom.

On behalf of the faculty council I wish to thank the board for approving the funds for this software and am pleased to report that it is working out very well.