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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
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FCCCC President's Address
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting
Thursday, February 8, 2007

Chancellor Watson, members of the Board, Officers of the District, faculty, staff and all others present: Good morning! And a very special welcome back to Chairman Tyree. I may be dating myself but here it goes: "You look mahvalous!" I hope you appreciate the reference.

Today's address will be brief. Yesterday the Executive Committee discussed many on-going initiatives and some new ones. This summer the CCC will be broadening its international presence with the Spanish Language Initiative in Salamanca, Spain. Currently we are selecting our inaugural class of students to participate. As like last summer, there will be both a student and a faculty Salzburg Seminar. Selection is on-going for these programs as well. Also, as Associate Vice Chancellor Aybar noted at the Committee Meeting, this spring the City Colleges will begin an ambitious Faculty Training Seminar unprecedented in its scope. The Faculty Council looks forward to learning more about this program.

Finally, as you heard on Tuesday, Executive Vice Chancellor Lewis noted that of the 166 non-tenured faculty up for renewal this year, only eight are not returning: four resigned and four were not offered contracts. This is good news. Full-time faculty provide stability, ensure continuity and their institutional memory is irreplaceable. I had begun to fear that the gap that existed between the new and veteran faculty when I was hired in 1998 would never be closed. Back then I had been the first hire in the Humanities Dept. since 1977, a span of twenty-one years. For too many years faculty retired and were not replaced. It appears that the trend is reversing.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Lakin
President, FCCCC