



# Wilbur Wright College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

4300 North Narragansett Avenue • Chicago, IL 60634-1591  
Website: <http://wright.ccc.edu>

Phone: 773/777-7900

August 8, 2008 – District 508 Board Meeting  
District-Wide Faculty Council Report  
Submitted by Keith McCoy,  
President of the Faculty Council of Chicago City Colleges

## Status Report of Foreign Language Requirement.

Faculty members from all seven colleges, including the student trustee, were represented when crafting the recommendation. The committee held a couple of meetings over the summer regarding this initiative.

The first goal from the *Vision 2011* strategic plan states, "Solidify commitment to student learning /effective teaching." In order to achieve this goal the following strategy was stated, "Infuse global contents and contexts into instruction and the curriculum."

As a result, the committee suggests:

CCC should recalibrate its AA degree offerings to incorporate the foreign language requirement

The following goals of the foreign language requirement are:

1. Expand a student's view of the world.
2. Encourage critical reflection on the relation of language and culture.
3. Contribute to cultural awareness and learning.
4. Prepare a student for the global community.

The committee's recommendation for the foreign language requirement includes.

- Require 8 hours of a foreign language for the Associates of Arts (AA) degree. Two courses of the same language is required.
- Keep the minimum required number of credit hours for the AA degree at 62.
- Reduce the minimum hours for electives from 24 to 16.
- Present final recommendation in Spring 2009 for a Fall 2009 implementation.

**Faculty Council Report – August 7, 2008**  
**Page Two**

Several concerns regarding the implementation of a foreign language requirement from both faculty and administration were considered. These concerns and our responses to them are as follows:

- Concern:
  - Will there be a reduction in graduation and enrollment rates?
- Response:
  - The foreign language courses (i.e., 101 & 102) transfer as elective courses.
  - About 30% of students receiving an AA degree in FY 2007 completed at least one foreign language course.
  - Only 1,354 students or about 1% of CCC's annual student enrollment graduated with an AA degree in FY 2007.
  - Many students come/return to CCC to complete their foreign language requirement at other institutions.
- Concern:
  - Can students opt out of the requirement? How will native speakers of a foreign language be accommodated?
- Response:
  - UIC's Pre-Enrollment Placement Testing Program (PEP) model for foreign language placement was recommended for review.
  - Branching model, where students are advised based on their responses to screening questions.
  - Students can place or CLEP out of the requirement.
  - Includes placement opportunities for native speakers.
- Concern:
  - Will this requirement have a negative impact on student enrollment in other courses? Will it have a deleterious impact on some programs?
- Response:
  - Allows the district's minimum required hours for general education to remain at 38.
  - Affects only a small percentage of students. Students will continue to enroll in courses that meet their need.
  - Creates an opportunity for the development of additional courses (e.g., international business, global studies, entrepreneurship etc.).

**Faculty Council Report – August 7, 2008**  
**Page Three**

In order to implement the foreign language requirement, the following needs must be considered:

1. Advisors will need training. Online advising is recommended as well.
2. With the help from administration, the foreign language faculty must meet during the 2008-09 academic year to plan curriculum and a placement or testing program.
3. Discussion regarding students with special needs must ensue.

Our next steps for presenting the recommendation include:

- Present requirement at FC4 Annual Retreat.
- Present requirement at each campus to faculty, advisors, and administration.
- Present requirement at student leadership conference at KKC.