



Wilbur Wright College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

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December 2, 2008 – District 508 Board Meeting
District-Wide Faculty Council Report
Submitted by Keith McCoy,
President of the Faculty Council of City Colleges of Chicago

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

I want to first recognize CCC's stellar local and district faculty council members, as well as, the CCC executive faculty council team. I have participated in an executive position for the past four years and must say that we have a very productive executive team. Through our discussions, we have been able to move on many issues of concern that assist both students and faculty.

Regarding students, faculty council was asked to take a leadership role in helping to address textbook costs. Toward this end, discussions have ensued between CCC math departments and textbook publishers regarding the course, Math 099, Intermediate Algebra with Geometry. This seems to hold interesting promise for City Colleges of Chicago not only regarding reducing textbook costs but also including blackboard integration with popularly-used instructional technology. A meeting will be planned in late January around these issues. Hopefully, I will have more to say about this in February.

Regarding faculty, the executive team is in the process of editing and finalizing a purpose statement for faculty council to bring before the district. It is hoped that this will empower faculty to feel more apart of and to take on more responsibility within the CCC academic culture. The district faculty council, with the support of the executive team, has also agreed to begin recognizing stellar faculty from each of the seven campuses. We want this process to be outside of the already established distinguished professor awards and open to untenured and adjunct faculty. These faculty members will be acknowledged at the annual faculty council retreat in August. We will formulate this process during the spring semester.

Lastly, I opened my remarks acknowledging the great performance of faculty and the executive team because it is important to do. Such a small act of "thank you" or "congratulation" leads to great value and continued engagement. Although uncommon in many institutions, I even urge colleges to consider some celebration for those who are newly tenured. How many of us take time to say "good job" to our colleagues or workers? It does not take a lot of money. It does not take a lot of time. It certainly does not take a lot of effort. It simply takes a sincere gesture and a word of kindness. On that note, please have a safe and great holiday season.