



Wilbur Wright College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

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TRUSTEES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
JULY 16, 2008

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FC4 Address to the CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Chairman Tyree, Chancellor Watson, Members of the Board, Officers of the District, faculty, staff and all others present: Good Morning! I bring you greetings from the President of the Faculty Council, Keith McCoy, who is teaching a class at this very moment. I had offered to substitute for him, so that he could be here, but he felt he owed it to his students to be in class since next week will be the last week of the summer semester. It's hard to believe that the summer is practically over.

Faculty council has continued to be active during the summer months. Under the leadership of President McCoy, we had convened a committee representing all seven colleges to work out the details of the Chancellor's proposal to require that candidates for the Associate in Arts degree, demonstrate a certain minimal skill level in a foreign language. As you all know, the Chancellor is committed to preparing our students to be competitive in the global economy. He wants to ensure that our students have the necessary skills and knowledge to hold their own against the rest of the world.

The committee has decided that it will not be necessary to increase the total number of credit hours required for the degree since students will be able to demonstrate this skill level in several different ways. At our next meeting, which is scheduled for this coming Friday, we will finalize the various options for satisfying the new requirement. For those of you who might not be familiar with the AA degree, this proposal represents a major change from the past. Up until now, the only requirements that AA candidates had to satisfy were the general education core requirements prescribed by the Illinois Community College Board. There had not been any additional requirements prescribed by District 508. Each student, working toward this transfer degree, had identified an area of concentration and, with the aid of a college advisor, selected courses that were appropriate to that area. Since the foreign language requirement is not part of the Gen Ed Core, students who had not elected to take a foreign language for their AA degree may have had to take those courses after they left City Colleges.

The committee expects to finish everything before the start of the Fall Semester and to present its recommendations to the full faculty council at our annual retreat on August 15th. In September the Officers of the District Faculty Council are planning to present the final proposal to the local faculty council on each campus. After the seven presentations, we will ask that each college conduct a referendum. We are confident that the faculty will support the proposal and we hope to implement the revised requirements for new students who are first entering the colleges in the Fall of 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Julius Nadas, Secretary, FC4