



Wilbur Wright College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

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TRUSTEES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
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October 2, 2008 – District 508 Board Meeting
District-Wide Faculty Council Report
Submitted by Keith McCoy,
President of the Faculty Council of Chicago City Colleges

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

Within these tough economical times, there are many challenges facing the district, in particular our students. I believe the textbook affordability town hall meeting began a necessary dialogue that must continue. There are other curricular issues that must be addressed. These include expediting remediation; increasing student retention, persistence and success in college; creating innovative curriculum; engaging students in national and international issues; and providing and monitoring academic programs and policies. Faculty members are often invited to engage in many of these ideas, including the abroad programs and the town hall meetings. However, I am still left with the question, "How can faculty council play a more effective role within the CCC structure?"

Faculty council can assist in many ways that provide low to no cost to CCC and high to excellent benefits. Faculty council can assist in mobilizing faculty to craft and assist in developing academic policy, such as the foreign language requirement. Faculty council has at its disposal the abilities and good will of the district faculty leadership, who can help drive curriculum planning and review. Faculty council can and will work with student leadership so that students have input into the academic process and help keep our academic policies transparent. As I have been speaking to faculty across the district, it is striking that there is not as much dissonance between faculty and administration as one may think. Any perceived discordance is often a result of miscommunication.

In conclusion, as I visit faculty at each campus, I will note that we are standing on a precipice of change. As faculty consider our role in CCC and more formally the role of faculty council, I hope that faculty council can then begin serving the district in ways that ushers forward a new and fortuitous era for the district.