



Wilbur Wright College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

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TRUSTEES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
JULY 14, 2009

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

Phone: 773/777-7900

July 14, 2009 – District 508 Board Meeting
District-Wide Faculty Council Report
Submitted by Keith McCoy,
Secretary of the Faculty Council of Chicago City Colleges

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

In the immortal words of the late Michael Jackson, "I never can say goodbye."

To my colleague, Isabelle Belance, and her family, both immediate and at Harold Washington College, Isabelle was the consummate professor and colleague. She was at the top of her game regarding her discipline, one of the go-to people regarding assessment and student learning outcomes, a passionate artist, a faculty leader and advocate, and a dear acquaintance.

To Dr. Watson, you leave City Colleges of Chicago with the indelible marks of your accomplishments. Whether it is raising academic standards, improving budgetary processes, creating collaborations between CCC and local academic institutions like CPS, establishing a study abroad program that will help usher CCC into 2011 as a global academic institution of higher learning, spearheading the construction of a new Kennedy-King College, or any of your many known and unknown accomplishments, you have been a remarkable leader, administrator, teacher, and champion for CCC. Although you will not be far from home at Chicago State University, you will be missed. On behalf of all CCC faculty members, we wish you much continued success.

To Deidre Lewis, a shiny star and beloved and dynamic administrator, you are truly and literally a leader to whom we can never say goodbye. I wish you a hearty welcome back and look forward to working once again with you.

To the board of trustees, I thank you for all your support and guidance for CCC. I urge you once again to make a long-term appointment to the CCC chancellorship based on a process that is fair, reasonable, and transparent. Selecting a great leader who comes from among the CCC rank is a step in a good direction. However, while the appointment of Mrs. Lewis is spectacular and even exciting, it is also temporary and leaves the question of who will really lead District 508 still unanswered. Thus, there is still a decision you must make; and, so, does our quest to find a chancellor continues.