



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 5, 2009 – District 508 Board Meeting
District-Wide Faculty Council Report
Submitted by Keith McCoy,
President of the Faculty Council of Chicago City Colleges**

Good morning. At our first meeting in September, Faculty Council discussed the concerns of nursing students who do not pass the HESI exam. The discussion centered on a few concerns including:

- More and more students are coming into the nursing program having had some remedial/developmental math, reading, or English course.
- The remedial/developmental courses may not sufficiently prepare our nursing students to think critically.
- The concerns about nursing students are not just the purview of the nursing faculty but a shared responsibility of other departments from which nursing students take courses.

Focusing on this last point, Faculty Council members discussed a several key points: (1) we must examine our remedial/developmental (currently called foundational studies) courses and make sure that they are sufficiently cultivating critical thinking; (2) we must make sure that faculty members are aware of the implications of our respective courses on students and other disciplines; and (3) work collaboratively with programs like nursing to craft courses that may be more suitable to nursing students. Toward this end, at our executive committee meeting with Academic Affairs, in the late fall or early spring, nursing directors and faculty will meet with math chairs district-wide, to craft a Math 118 course that will help foster critical thinking skills around relevant topics (e.g., logic, probability, statistics, etc.). Faculty Council hopes that this is only the beginning of such collaboration between curriculums and that this does not begin and end with the nursing and math departments.

Other faculty concerns include the Humanities department and the somewhat unclear description of what constitutes proper credentialing of Humanities faculty. Academic Affairs at some point during the academic school year and under Dr. Lopez' leadership will convene a meeting with the Humanities chairs to help standardize their curriculum and define these credentialing criteria. Lastly, but not the least, Faculty Council in collaboration with Academic Affairs and the Union will host a chairs leadership symposium during the spring. It is our hope that we can through support and collaboration build stronger leadership among departmental chairs and program directors.

I thank Chairman Tyree and the entire Board of Trustees for the Chancellor Search public forums. I will attend this Wednesday's forum at Malcolm X College at 6pm. Speaking of Malcolm X College, I also encourage all to attend and support the President's Scholarship Gala on October 16. Tickets can be purchased online at www.malcolmxcollege.edu. In the spirit of support for all our CCC institutions, I plan to attend this event and look forward to other CCC events.