

CHANCELLOR BOARD REMARKS OCTOBER 5, 2009

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

September was a very productive month. I visited five of our seven colleges to re-introduce myself to the faculty and staff. AVC Diane Minor joined me on these visits to the colleges to identify capital quick-fixes to ensure that minor problems do not turn into major problems.

I attended the Board's first public forum on the Search for a New Chancellor. Our next forum is scheduled for this Wednesday at Malcolm X College at 6:00 p.m.

I am an agency representative on the Chicago Workforce Investment Council or CWIC. Trustee Castillo is a CWIC member. I attended the September CWIC meeting, and the City Colleges of Chicago will make a presentation at the October meeting. Additionally, one of my objectives is to meet with individual CWIC members to demystify the City Colleges of Chicago. Toward that end, VC Henderson, President Wozniak and I had our first meeting with Raul Raymundo, a CWIC member and Executive Director of the Resurrection Project in the Pilsen neighborhood. We will be scheduling meetings with the other members very shortly.

Today's agenda notes the recommendation to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City Colleges of Chicago and City Colleges Contingent Labor Organizing Committee, and I had an opportunity to meet with Floyd Bednarz, the new president of CCCLOC.

I entertained discussions this month on two issues that affect students.

The first is our Bookstores. We've had a number of complaints about customer service in our bookstores and about textbook pricing. We will be seeking input on both issues with Faculty Council and District SGA. The vendors have been receptive to our customer service issues and have acted appropriately.

We've also had a discussion at the OD level with VC Linenberger to operationalize *how* we identify areas requiring business process redesign.

We have scheduled a meeting with our Presidents and Ron Huberman from the Chicago Public Schools for this Wednesday regarding mutual collaborations. One of the initiatives that we would like to re-establish is the Dual Credit program.

I want to thank the individual Trustees for their support this month. I will continue to keep the Board apprised of our accomplishments and our issues.

On a sad note, there is a Resolution in your board packets that will be addressed by staff, but I feel compelled to comment on the passing of a trusted and valuable colleague. The Resolution gives the particulars of her life and accomplishments, but I think you should know that Juliette Ferguson had an unlimited compassion for our students and an unconditional loyalty to the law. She was determined to lobby for what was legal and right. No one championed her convictions as strongly and as passionately as Juliette. At the City Colleges, we were all grateful to have her legal counsel and her protection, and we were blessed to have her friendship.

She will be missed.