



# Wilbur Wright College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

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TRUSTEES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

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September 3, 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. I would like to address some concerns that have been brought before faculty council and me. Many of these concerns were discussed at our last executive faculty council meeting with Academic Affairs.

First, I met with the CCC nursing staff in late August to discuss their issues with the Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) exam. This is a computerized assessment that is administered to nursing students at the end of their program. It is used as a predictor for how students will perform on the state licensure exam.

The nurses are concerned that the test is being used too punitively (i.e., keeping students from graduating); not being used to appropriately diagnose student deficiencies; and that nurses are not involved in the process of creating the program's exit exam (i.e., they would prefer to write their own exam).

At the program/district level, the concerns are also numerous. Accreditation of nursing programs depends on the success of first-time examinees on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). Thus, programs must ensure that students are ready to sit for the NCLEX at the student's first administration of the exam. Currently, a HESI score of 870 (out of 1000) is used as the determiner that a student is ready to sit for the NCLEX. If at least 75% of nursing students from a program do not pass the NCLEX on the first attempt, the program is placed on probation. Until recently, there were CCC nursing programs that could not meet this requirement.

Here's what I also know. The nurses would like to go back to their own exit exam. However, this is not a practical approach. Establishing reliability and validity of the exams, writing items, performing predictive validity studies, and maintaining item banks is time-consuming and costly. Further, in order to effectively prepare nursing students for the NCLEX, which is a computer adaptive test, the exit exam would have to be at least computerized. The HESI meets this requirement. There is no real competitor for the HESI currently. Further, the HESI is apparently created directly from CCC's curriculum. Elsevier, which maintains and create HESI exams, is sent the nursing syllabi (and curriculum) directly from Academic Affairs. Hence, the HESI exam is created directly from the nursing curriculum. The nursing faculty would also like timelier student remediation. Academic Affairs agrees. It is preparing to embark on several initiatives to help prepare nursing faculty. I think one resolution to the nursing issue includes making sure that faculty are part of the remediation planning and programming enhancement strategies and that students and faculty are more aware of the "what" and "why" the administration is doing to improve our nursing programs.

The next two concerns involve student services. We must be diligent in checking prices and services at our college bookstores. I have heard reports at two colleges of bad business practices (e.g., mark-up of text book costs well above 30%, and the coercing of students to buy textbooks at their establishment). Also, we must ensure that all of our staff, faculty and administration are providing friendly and professional services to our students. I was alarmed yesterday when I was informed from many staff from a particular college staff members are consistently rude and unfriendly to students. The examples and stories that were cited were unbelievable. Certainly, we do not need to give students any additional reasons to not attend college—let alone a CCC college.

I hope we can resolve these issues to the best interest of CCC. I look forward to our board's search for a new Chancellor. Faculty and staff are still eager to see this process unfold. I hope that all have a great Labor Day holiday. I know that I will celebrate my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday very well.