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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
MARCH 5, 2009

March 5, 2009 – District 508 Board Meeting
District- Wide Faculty Council Report
Submitted by Ellen Eason-Montgomery
Chair of Committee A of Chicago City Colleges

The Executive Committee of Faculty Council Report is as follows:

Status of Faculty Councils Textbook Cost Initiative

- An update on the proposed use of MyMathLab for Math 099 district wide occurred resulting in a decision to revisit the issue due to concerns about costs and technical/delivery issues during the discussion.

Status of Faculty Councils, Faculty Focus Group Survey

- As a result of the Faculty Focus Group Survey on district wide Blackboard usage, Faculty council will support an initiative to encourage all faculties to post all syllabi on Blackboard beginning fall '09.

Status on Foreign Language Requirement

- The committee discussed and strategized ways to communicate the new Foreign Language policy. Flyer distribution, along with fact sheets and riders for all campuses along with other marketing strategies will be used to communicate this policy to students, faculty staff and administrators.
- Discussions to address placement and assessment concerns are on –going.

Foundational Studies – Formerly Pre Credit Courses

- Faculty Council was informed that the Pre-Credit division will eventually be referred to as Foundational Studies.
- The Committee discussed faculty credentials and job descriptions that have been reviewed and those areas of concern regarding union related and course position issues.
- Substantial tuition increase, combined with financial aid ineligibility for pre-credit or Foundational Studies students was of great concern to this committee.
- Faculty Council has offered to strategize and assist CCC Colleges and SGAs with the development of a plan to raise monies to offset costs for pre-credit students.

District Wide Cultural Studies Concentrations

- Faculty Council was pleased to learn of the district-wide initiative to develop concentrations in African American Studies and Latin American Studies across all seven CCC colleges.

Curricunet Faculty Coordinators

- After Tuesdays meeting, Faculty Council is very hopeful that the long called for consideration of a Curricunet Faculty Coordinator duplicating the Curricunet Faculty Coordinator position at Harold Washington College, will be implemented at all CCC campuses. Faculty Council hopes that this position will provide a valuable resource for faculty and administration that are, or will be working with Curricunet for course development.

New District Wide Chairs Symposium

- Lastly, because Faculty Council recognizes the importance of departmental Chairs as the first and sometimes only line of defense and support for faculty and as sustainers of healthy and functional departments, the committee addressed the need to have an annual district-wide chairs symposium. This symposium will help identify best practices, loopholes, and expectations as a way to support new and currently existing chairs.
- It was even recommended by administration to invite Local 1600 to be a part of this symposium.
- A Planning Committee will be established and will work with Vice Presidents, Deans, Chairs and Departments to create healthy and sustainable learning communities.