

Office of the President

**November 4, 2010- District 508 Board Meeting**  
**District Wide Faculty Council Report**  
**Submitted by Executive Committee Faculty Council Chicago City Colleges**

Good Morning to Board of Trustees, Chairman Martin Cabrera Jr. , Chancellor Cheryl Hyman, Officers of the District, and guests.

Several Local College Faculty Councils reported issues of concern related to communications between administration and faculty. The Executive Committee of the District-Wide Faculty Council met last night with the Provost and Officers of The District to discuss these concerns.

Whereas the Chancellor might have the expectation that all communication from her eventually gets to the faculty, this is clearly not the case. We need to find a more direct and effective communication route between the Officers of the District and CCC faculty.

Faculty need to be involved in the initial planning of all changes. There has to be open communication in order to address the needs of our students. The line of communication and administration must be kept open.

This district is comprised of 550 full time as well as 1,000 part time faculty. While we realize that we exist in an era of information overload, we need to address the needs of our students by improved communications.

The following statement of our purpose had been approved by the administration:

To discharge their joint responsibility to both the general and academic communities, college faculties must be accorded a strong voice in the determination of academic policy. To accomplish this, they must be (1) part of a collegial structure that will encourage the expression and exchange of ideas, (2) consulted in all matters involving educational policies, and (3) guaranteed as much self government and self regulation as the legally established structure of authority will



permit. This constitution is established in the firm belief that faculty participation through a faculty government will (1) result in the continuing improvement of the City Colleges of Chicago as an institution of higher learning in the best American educational tradition, (2) operate toward establishing lasting harmonious relationships among the faculty, the administration and the Board of Community College District No. 508, and (3) serve as an effective instrument to deal democratically with those problems which have traditionally been within the province of faculty prerogative in American colleges and universities.

In order to be able to fulfill our mission and administratively approved purpose we have requested a weekly executive level summary of administrative changes in policy or anything that might be interpreted as change related to academic policy, IT support, staffing levels or any other areas affecting faculty that fall under the auspices of the seven vice chancellors.

For example, in the past the determination of qualifications and review of their current status to teach was done in conjunction with faculty input. This time, administration decided to determine qualifications without faculty input, as a result this action has become a contributor to the feeling of non-transparency.

Transparency breeds confidence and trust. Non transparency creates circumstances that should not occur.

Our faculty want to participate fully as we move forward with the reinvention process. To do this effectively we need to know what is going on. We want to be more involved in the process. We are a collegial body of faculty wanting to share in the process for the benefit and betterment of our students.

**Presented By**

**Ellen Eason-Montgomery - President of the Faculty Council Chicago City Colleges**