



# Wilbur Wright College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

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TRUSTEES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508  
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February 11, 2010 – District 508 Board Meeting  
District-Wide Faculty Council Report  
Submitted by Keith McCoy,  
President of the Faculty Council of Chicago City Colleges

Good afternoon. Many interesting issues have come before district faculty council this month.

Before discussing one of the leading concerns, I want to sincerely thank my fellow district faculty council leadership (Adriana Tapnes-Inojosa, Jan Berardo, Julius Nadas, and Ellen Eason-Montgomery) and the office of Academic Affairs (VC Angela Henderson, AVC Cecilia Lopez, AVC Cynthia Armster, AVC Antonio Gutierrez) along with AVC Diane Minor and AVC Simon Visser, for the tenacity and resolve they demonstrate on behalf of faculty and students. Over the past two-three years, these meetings have been the most productive and well-functioning meetings for faculty council.

I especially want to sincerely thank Vice Chancellor Angela Henderson. Faculty council was concerned about who would assume leadership upon the retirement of Executive Vice Chancellor Deidra Lewis, who served that position remarkably well. However, VC Henderson has been very skillfully at being able to mold discussions and address serious and contentious issues that could potentially be cantankerous and ultimately unproductive between faculty and administration. VC Henderson employs a management style and a level of civility that really works well. I hope this same example of leadership will be seen in our new chancellor.

I will give an example. One major concern among CCC faculty currently is the mandatory all-day meeting that all full-time math faculty members must attend on Wednesday, March 10, to hear and respond to a presentation by Mr. John Squires. Faculty members feel this is an abuse of faculty obligation to students, particularly for those who have teaching responsibilities at the time of the meeting. Also, the Monday-Wednesday classes are already operating at a loss of two instructional days this semester. So, I do echo my colleagues concern. District faculty council did offer the alternative of obtaining faculty volunteers from each college who would attend, as well as, those who

do not have teaching obligations at the time of the meeting. We know this, while not guaranteed, is being taken under consideration. However, VC Henderson certainly helped faculty council leadership understand the importance of the meeting without belittling the voices of disgruntled faculty.

The completion and success rates out of CCC developmental math courses, including Foundational Studies (formerly Pre-credit), Math 098 and Math 099, are abysmal. I remember a few years ago the district success rate was a low 40% with no one college receiving over 50%. This is a national issue and not just a local one. Many of us, both faculty and administration, have known this from some time and have endeavored to improve these rates to little avail. Now, we have reached the point where change must occur in the developmental math curriculum. It is because of this very need to change that CCC administration is actively looking to redesign our math curriculum and is looking at good practices and successes that are occurring at other institutions. The importance of this need for redesigning of the developmental math curriculum, while presented very credibly by VC Henderson to district faculty council, has not been communicated well to faculty.

Mr. Squires received the 2009 Bellwether Award for Instructional Programs and Services for spearheading Cleveland State Community College's course redesign project for developmental and college-level math courses. Cleveland state has had remarkable success with this project that truly warrants its review. While I myself have questions and concerns about the project and this project may not entirely fit the needs of CCC, faculty must be involved and engaged in curricular discussions regarding any CCC redesign efforts.

Faculty must also be proactive in participating in driving these efforts. Regardless of whether the meeting mandate holds or is altered (I wish for the latter), going forward, I hope that the college presidents will at least relay a better message emphasizing the importance of this meeting and the involvement of all math instructors in this process so that we can all be on board with any redesign efforts.

Thank you.