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January 7, 2010 – District 508 Board Meeting District-Wide Faculty Council Report Submitted by Keith McCov President of the Faculty Council of Chicago City Colleges

Good morning. I would like to welcome everyone back...

District Faculty Council is dearing up for the new academic semester. We continue to have as a priority finding strategies to help combat rising costs of textbooks. It is a standing agenda item at our executive faculty council meetings with Academic Affairs. At our meeting on Monday, we discussed strategies (i.e., posting textbook policies on campus) that we can immediately implement this semester.

Further, District Faculty Council will work diligently with local councils, faculty, and student governments to find amenable and textbook-cost-saving approaches that can be implemented departmentally. Our focus will be on courses that offer multiple sections. It is often with these courses that we hear concerns from students about: (a) not being able to return textbooks (at the beginning or end of the term) because of the various textbooks used in different sections of the same course, and (b) being required to purchase a new textbook for students who must repeat a multi-section course in which there is no consistent text. Thus, we understand that faculty through their respective departments can play a pivotal and leading role in decreasing textbook concerns for students.

Lastly, District Faculty Council is very excited about the district's initiative to offer online degrees. We support the consortium in its endeavor and look forward to faculty participating in this initiative. Thank you