

FCCCC President's Address
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting
Thursday, November 1, 2012

Chairman Wolf, Chancellor Hyman, members of the board, officers of the district, faculty, staff, and all others present, good morning.

Given the recent events on the east coast, I just want to begin by saying I hope CCC family members and friends living in the path of Hurricane Sandy are safe and well. FC4 wishes them the very best as they begin the difficult process of restoring their homes and neighborhoods.

As many here are aware, another shooting occurred in the Uptown neighborhood where my home college is located. Sadly, one of the young victims has died, and I know everyone here joins me in sending our deepest prayers and condolences to the victim's family. The loss of young life is always tragic, and I know we all hope for a time when violence committed by and against the young is gone forever. Hopefully, that time comes sooner rather than later, but in the mean time, I know everyone here will do their best to reassure and keep secure all the students, staff, and faculty throughout the CCC district. As a response to this tragedy, President Reagan has scheduled forums for students, staff, and faculty to discuss the situation, counseling is being offered at our wellness center, and President Reagan is scheduled to meet with VC of Security de Lopez right after today's board meeting. Moreover, I have shared with President Reagan some very sober and common sense security recommendations my students from my Introduction to Literature class have shared with me, and she has promised to communicate these recommendations to VC de Lopez. I will follow up in writing as well later this afternoon.

Despite these somber comments, I do have positive updates I need to share.

Firstly, College to Careers:

Initial dialogue with VC Lang and VC Lott has been good, and all parties expect the dialogue to continue. At yesterday's executive council meeting, **both VCs Lang and Lott offered repeated assurances C2C programs are NOT meant to reshape the entire CCC educational mission**--rather C2C is reshaping CCC's occupational programs. It was also stated the hope is these occupational programs will become strongly academic in nature and spirit so that they may align with four year programs. All parties present at yesterday's meeting--that is, C2C VCs, the Provost and VCs from Academic Affairs, and FC4 faculty agreed to keep the lines of communication open and allow the expertise from all sides to shape C2C programs so they are enriched programs leading to layered career opportunity and possibly a four year degree.

Secondly, Student Services

I met for the first time with VC Preston Harden, Ed Garza, and VC Michael Mutz to discuss ways FC4 and Student Services can work together to achieve student success. It was a good dialogue, and we hope to keep the dialogue going.

With respect to advising, I suggested that at the college level, advisors and faculty should meet and begin to discuss ways for collaboration. I even suggested advisors be assigned to specific academic departments, so there is a constant line of communication to exchange accurate information about programs, placement, and student behavior. Just such meetings will be taking place between Truman College's English department and advisors to insure accurate information is available for proper placement procedures and general advising.

We also discussed the first year student, and I shared suggestions that have come out of the Foundation of Excellence initiative. I teach English 101, which as you know is freshman composition. I love working with the first year student. In committee work with FOE, our members had made the suggestion to create a first year student web page, and we suggested Harvard's as a model. I'd like to quickly show that to you now.

<http://www.fdo.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

This web page has a pleasant, encouraging, but also serious academic tone.

At this point, I went off script, and a lively discussion with the Chancellor and the board of trustees began about--

- 1) academic rigor in the classroom
- 2) encouraging students to create an education plan with their advisor
- 3) the challenges of communication within CCC between faculty and administration, Chairman Wolf suggested that further discussion on this topic take place and all parties report back to the board in the spring semester.
- 4) I also stated that FC4 has some concerns on a few initiatives, and I would report back to the board after attending meetings scheduled throughout the rest of November.

Please see detailed meeting minutes as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Aguila, Assistant Professor
FC4 President