

FCCCC President's Address

CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting

Thursday, October 4, 2012

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

Given this is Vice Chancellor Alvin Bysaria's last day, I want to extend, on behalf of FC4, best wishes to him and his family as he moves on to his new position. FC4 thanks, you, Alvin for your contributions to City Colleges of Chicago and wishes you all the best.

Before I begin my extended comments, I need to state that I have been asked on behalf of the FC4 Curriculum Committee to extend an offer to the Education Committee. The FC4 Curriculum Committee, also known as Committee A, offers to give a thorough, informative presentation on the PAC process--that is, the Proposed Academic Change process. If this is of interest to the Education Committee, I am willing to put all interested parties in contact with each other to determine a time, date, and place. If members are interested, just let me know at the conclusion of today's board meeting, and I will immediately get the process going later this afternoon.

For my extended comments today, I would like to share a sequence of events that have made me more hopeful that meaningful shared governance just might be possible throughout City Colleges of Chicago.

About two weeks ago, Dr. Antonio Gutierrez from the Office of Research requested a list of faculty who might be interested in serving on his Student Satisfaction Survey committee. I immediately sent him a list of names with a brief justification for recommending them and contact information. In creating my list, I considered relevant disciplinary expertise, team and leadership skills, and I tried to make sure as many colleges as possible were represented on the list. From the list, two faculty members have volunteered to serve on the committee. Dr. Gutierrez's office is famous for its efficiently run committees and willingness to collaborate with faculty, so, I was not surprised faculty were happy to serve. After the process was over, I had quietly wished this example could become standard procedure.

And then, a few days later, I received an email from Vice Chancellor Preston Harden requesting a FC4 faculty representative recommendation to serve on the Shuttle Bus Committee. I would like to emphasize he requested an FC4 faculty representative, and to quote from his email, he stated, "The faculty member will serve . . . in an advisory role which includes reviewing the requirements, making recommendations and providing feedback. The faculty member will also be responsible for updating District wide

Faculty Council on the status and progress of this initiative." I confess I was quite stunned when I read that last sentence and reread the email three times just to make sure I wasn't in some other alternate fantasy reality of my own making. Once sure I was earthbound, I immediately got off an email to *all* FC4 representatives calling for volunteers, and once again I have already received two faculty responses and have sent off an email to VC Harden.

Moreover, VC Harden and I have good conversations about other initiatives, and I hope to keep the dialogue open. I have even stated to him if there is anything FC4 can do to help advocate for increased access to financial aid for college students--and clearly I mean CCC students--and the Dream Act and other student services issues, I would be willing to take these issues to FC4 for feedback and recommendations.

In addition to these examples, Executive Director Scott Martyn has kept the lines of communication open between administration and FC4, and he has proved himself very willing to help troubleshoot concerns faculty expressed regarding GradesFirst. His willingness to help is greatly appreciated. Building on this initial dialogue is important given he will now oversee Reinvention, and it is my hope we can sustain regular communication.

Speaking of Reinvention, I have received a call from the faculty member tasked to work on implementing the Taleo software hiring tool. In our conversation, I recommended creating a committee of seven department chairs--one from each college--to help the Reinvention task force shape implementation. To my mind, this makes logical sense. Department chairs lead department hiring committees. They are the logistical experts in hiring faculty and will be well suited to make meaningful recommendations. The department chairs should also be allowed to test the software **before** implementation to catch as many bugs as possible and address any concerns department chairs may have before the tool is launched. I am willing to help in recommending department chairs to help the Reinvention task force.

I want to acknowledge the Office of Academic Affairs led by the Provost. Late last summer, I asked the Provost if he would be willing to meet with me every two weeks to discuss issues, and he agreed, and in the last month and a half, we have been working on building a line of communication between the Provost and faculty. In fact, we met this morning before this meeting. I am appreciative of the Provost's willingness to meet and build a dialogue. My hope is this will become a matter of course for all future FC4 presidents.

I also want to acknowledge Vice Chancellor Vernese Edghill-Walden who has recently expressed support and a willingness to include faculty in the discussions of academic policy. This too is greatly appreciated, and I hope it continues.

And lastly, I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the faculty who have rose to service in the examples just mentioned and through Reinvention. It has been a great pleasure to work with the faculty doing good works on behalf of CCC. I hope to keep the door

open so they may continue to present their work to FC4 for feedback and recommendation.

It should be clear by now I am excited about what recent events might mean for meaningful shared governance in the future. While we are not quite there yet, in the spirit of fairness and professionalism, I did feel it incumbent upon me to acknowledge the administrators who have shown a willingness to include faculty in the governance of our educational institution and the great faculty who have been and will be offering service in the spirit of shared governance.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Aguila, Assistant Professor  
FC4 President