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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
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FCCCC President's Address

CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2013

Chair Wolff, Chancellor Hyman, members of the board, officers of the district, faculty, staff, and all others present, good morning!

FC4 has been engaged in a flurry of activity in the last few weeks. I'll start with a few status updates, then finish with a brief focused comment on an article about the completion agenda.

1) A draft of our FC4 Initiatives Report has been completed and presented to the Provost. By all accounts the meeting was collegial and positive, and I want to thank the Provost for his positive leadership. While action steps have been determined for a few items, discussion on other issues is still needed. FC4 also looks forward to presenting to Chair Wolff and Trustee Lawson on the 27th of February once confirmed.

1a) During our excellent meeting with the Provost and his staff at OAA, the current CCC procurement and reimbursement process came up in our discussions. All agreed procurement and reimbursement needs to be addressed--it needs to be improved. There must be a way to improve the process. FC4 representatives gave examples of how the process discourages faculty development, student field trips et al. Moreover, the Student Government Association and Student Clubs are also greatly discouraged with the process. Something must be done, and FC4 is willing to help in any way it can to work towards improvement.

2) A Faculty Development Week sub-committee has been created and will work with the Office of Academic Affairs to work on the planning for FDW next August.

3) A FC4 sub-committee focused on syllabi and learning outcomes oversight of CCC online courses will work with the Center for Distance Learning, OAA, and Reinvention. A meeting has been scheduled for March 1st where all the principals involved will begin the discussion.

4) With the leadership of the Provost and Dr. Antonio Gutierrez, the interim IRB committee will be meeting soon to begin planning for the permanent IRB. I have a meeting today with Dr. Gutierrez to discuss next steps.

5) I would also like to send a big thank you to AVC Preston Harden who has been working on getting the advisor name per student on the class rosters. This is a suggestion FC4 representatives made last semester, and AVC Harden has been working on it. I've seen drafts of the new roster and it looks great. So big thanks to AVC Harden.

6) And lastly, the Business Intelligence Steering Committee has had its first meeting, and I would say it went very well. The discussion on this project has been very inclusive of faculty, and I have every reason to believe this will continue.

And now for my brief focused comment:

An article entitled "Moving the needle on college completion, thoughtfully (essay)" by Valencia College President, Dr. Sanford C. Shugart, was posted on *Inside Higher Ed* web site on February 7, 2013. This article has been read by FC4 representatives and shared with their respective faculty. Moreover, some FC4 reps have heard Shugart speak and have been impressed by some of his ideas and ability to inspire.

Shugart's view is an impressively nuanced look at the completion agenda and warrants reading if not read already by board members and CCC administration. Shugart challenges the traditional definition of completion, cautions what is measured and how it is measured for fear it will be misused, argues for granular measurement, and a model of an "educational ecosystem"--and at the center of all of this--deep and meaningful learning is paramount--or in his words: "learning comes before competition."

Shugart's theory about completion is as follows:

"If more students learned deeply and effectively in a systematic program of study, with a clearer sense of purpose in their studies and their lives, more would graduate and contribute to the local economy and community, and that would be a good thing."

Indeed it would!

In our FC4 Initiatives report presented to the Provost last week, FC4 wrote ". . . a faculty-led district-wide effort to 'support student scholarship, creative productivity, and research . . . and create learning environments that unleash the inner scholar.'" What shape this effort will take is, as yet, unknown--further discussion is needed--most especially at the local level at each individual college. It's a discussion that must begin by faculty at the academic department level, across departments, up through local faculty councils, and on to local college administrations. It's a discussion that must include both curricular issues and creative learning environments and facilities--and faculty must lead the discussion--and hopefully, FC4 will have more to say in future on this very topic.

Respectfully submitted
by Christine Aguila, Assistant Professor
FC4 President