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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
APRIL 3, 2014

FCCCC President's Address
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting
Thursday, April 3, 2014

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

Despite the fact we are winding down for this academic year, FC4 has been involved in quite a few discussions about the various proposed initiatives: the new PAC process, 15 to Finish, Block Scheduling, and Faculty Development Week (FDW).

1) At yesterday's excellent Executive Council meeting with the Provost, we had robust discussion, and I am happy to report, the Provost has agreed to work with faculty in addressing our concerns and recommendations. (Chair Wolff asked for a list of those concerns. See attached.)

2) The PAC task force has completed its presentations at all the seven colleges and conducted the all-college retreat—the retreat was well attended and productive.

3) We are also finalizing plans for next years FDW. We are scheduling a one day FDW. The Provost will address the location issue, and FC4 will work with the Office of Academic Affairs on schedule specifics. The call for presentation proposals will go out to faculty soon.

On April 30th, FC4 will hold officer elections, and I will immediately email Candice Montgomery the results. The new FC4 president will give the May board report.

Without exaggeration, I can say these last two years have been busy for FC4, but I think we've made progress in faculty/administration relations and even achieved some of our own goals as outlined in the FC4 Initiatives Report. When FC4 returns in the fall, they will probably discuss new initiatives and report-out.

I wish all on the board well, and I hope you have a great summer!

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Aguila, Asst. Professor
Truman College
FC4 President

At the request of Chair Wolff, the following has been included—

Blocked Scheduling

FC4 Questions

- 1) Do students have a choice to either opt-in or opt-out of blocked courses?
- 2) How many stand-alone courses will there be for students who don't want to be in a blocked schedule?
- 3) Will these stand-alone courses be offered at the same time the blocked courses are offered?
- 4) When students are registered in a blocked schedule, do they know they are part of a cohort of students?

Comments and Recommendations

- 1) Faculty should be told they are in a blocked schedule, and they should have a choice if they want to be part of a blocked schedule.
- 2) There have been reports of student behavior problems unique to blocked courses. For example, if some students have difficulties getting along, this affects group dynamics for all courses in the block. Faculty wonder if the cohort recreates high school and encourages high school behavior.
- 3) There have been reports that the student success rate is significantly lower in blocked courses. The preliminary data should be reviewed. This data should be available at the colleges that have already piloted blocked courses.

15 to Finish

- 1) Overwhelmingly, FC4 recommends moving with extreme caution with 15 to Finish. FC4 does believe *eligible* students who are clearly at college level can be given financial incentive to take 15 credit hours a semester, but even then students should have sound advising and support services made available to them. Faculty have serious concerns about pressuring developmental education students to take 15 credit hours a semester.

Board Chair, Chancellor, and Vice Chancellor College Visits

- 1)** When senior administrators plan visits to the colleges, FC4 recommends, as a professional courtesy, a notice be sent to the local college faculty council president and council members.

Search Committees—District and Local Levels

- 1)** FC4 recognizes faculty have been invited to sit on search committees for administrative positions, but to give the process more transparency, FC4 recommends creating a process that becomes a matter of course. FC4 recommends faculty representation on search committees for the following positions: a) district level: Provost, Associate Vice Chancellors, Vice Chancellors; b) college level: College Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Deans. FC4 believes a process that becomes a matter of course is healthy for shared governance, respects all stakeholders, and is a hallmark of a student-centered institution and educational culture. Moreover, The Higher Learning Commission recommends faculty leadership should have significant voice in shared governance.