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**COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508**  
**OCTOBER 1, 2015**

FCCCC President's Address

CCC Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday October 1st, 2015

[Please note: 7 students and 3 community members spoke during the public participation session. I opened by stating the following: "Out of respect for both your time, and the powerful speakers who proceeded me, I am going to shorten my remarks today. Before I begin I want to say to the students who are in attendance today: I am so glad you are here today. I am very proud of you. As one of the students said: I am also here because I still have hope. Something can change. I have hope in my heart, also. I am totally with you."]

Chairman Middleton, Chancellor Hyman, members of the Board, good morning. I am happy to be here today to deliver this report on behalf of Faculty Council.

I want to begin my address today by reading a part of our Vision, as printed in the Student Policy Manual, which states, "Through the power of education, we inspire and transform the lives of our students and those connected to them." We "enhance the communities we serve." Faculty is committed to this vision. We want to make sure that this vision, though difficult to measure, stays central to what we are committed to doing as a District.

As FC4 President, I have a responsibility to accurately represent faculty's point of view, including sometimes our frustration and dissatisfaction. At the same time, I want you to know that faculty want to chart a course forward and do what is best for our current students, our future students, and the City of Chicago as a whole. We would like to work with you to find the best, most productive ways to have these important conversations regarding our shared sense of the mission, vision, and core values of our colleges.

IF our mission has, quite literally, been replaced by the reinvention goals, we as faculty think that is a simplistic and problematic way to think about the larger purpose of an entire community college system.

In one of our past meetings, it was asked what other community colleges the City Colleges of Chicago were looking to for benchmarking, for shared best-practices, and for careful implementation. We have been told that City Colleges is going to be the first to implement many of the changes that are being proposed. While being “the first” in the higher education landscape is, perhaps, a marker of bravery and gamesmanship, please acknowledge with us the legitimacy of our serious concerns as faculty about the hasty road we travel with no broadly understood sense of mission and purpose.

Rather than steering the ship, many of these changes are pulling us apart. We ask the board and the Chancellor to please carefully consider our students and their needs as new policies and procedures are introduced with haste. How are their voices – our **students’** voices- informing the choices that District Officers are making? Faculty have asked before and we repeat the request today: show us evidence and data that demonstrates how District Officers have surveyed our students and community groups to dig deeper in the process of making substantial decisions .

Let me be clear, if this board really wants our institutions to be so visionary as to become a model for our country, faculty could be convinced. That, however, would require District Administrators- who are currently charting this course without faculty or students input- to show us how the risks are worth the rewards. This situation demands transparency. Show us how we are best serving our least served communities. Show us how we can continue to empower and support diverse communities across the city and not entrench it deeper in educational segregation. We, faculty, need to get an understanding of these issues on a deep level, or else we, faculty, have a moral imperative to continue to question and push back.

This concludes my report. I thank you for your time today.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Alexander on behalf of the  
Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago