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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
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FCCCC President's Address
CCC Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday September 3, 2015

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 also want to thank Professor Davis and his students for your fantastic presentation. Finally, I want to thank everyone who attended today's meeting, and those who provided public participation today.

I was asked to keep my report short today and so I am delivering an abbreviated address.

Faculty *want* to understand District decisions. We want to believe you are working to make decisions that are in the best interests of our students. But when we are not afforded access to your decision-making process, even to your data upon which the decisions are based; when we are repeatedly shut out of the conversation, and told that *how* the decision was made was none of our business, we start to worry for the direction of the District and our Colleges.

One of the core values stated in our current Student Policy Manual reads: **"We are committed to ethical conduct.** We operate with the highest level of integrity, respect, honesty, and accountability in a fully transparent environment." We, the Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago ask, *is this still a core value?* Have there been changes to our published core values that we are not aware of? And *if transparency is still a core value*, why have we not been given access to the data and reasoning behind recent decisions such as the consolidation of various programs? Why, when we ask, are we repeatedly told that it is outside of our purview?

Faculty district-wide are concerned that we have repeatedly asked for the data that has been used to inform recent decisions including but not limited to changes in registration deadlines and proposed consolidation plans. We assume, as per the statements made in the 5 Year Plan, Strategic Initiatives & Objectives 2013-2018 (available http://www.ccc.edu/Documents/city%20colleges%20of%20chicago_5-year%20plan_2013-2018.pdf) which is available on the City Colleges of Chicago's website, that these must have been data-driven decisions. The document states, under the heading, "Creating a student-focused, data-driven culture," that the "City Colleges must dedicate itself to achieving what is best for our students, and to applying data analysis in determining the direction that best serves our students" (p. 38). Given that we assume these were data driven decisions, and given that our core values state that we operate in a system of "full transparency at all levels," we bring our request directly to the Board: **we would like to see the data that supports these decisions.**

In the interest of being data-driven and ensuring that everyone in our constituency has a voice, District Faculty Council conducted a survey of district-wide full-time faculty. We received 306 responses. This represents more than 50% of the full-time faculty and thus statistically has a confidence level of 95% or above that it is representative of full-time faculty opinion. Of those polled, 58% are extremely dissatisfied with the current direction of the district, and 28% are somewhat dissatisfied. This totals to 86%. But what matters is not simply this dissatisfaction, but the most frequently cited reasons: Two large themes emerged from the comments we received to this question. The first theme was a concern over the lack of involvement in decision-making from *faculty* and *students*. The second was a deep concern that we are no longer serving the *communities* of Chicago and are thus moving away from our mission as a community-based institution.

We are deeply troubled. We are deeply invested in making sure that this institution lives up to its mission and vision—that it works to transform the lives of our students, their families, and communities on *all* sides of Chicago.

One clear request arose out of the survey data and that is that faculty would like to have a district-wide Town Hall meeting this semester. We request that the Chancellor is present, as we have not been addressed by the Chancellor in quite some time. We would ideally love for the Board members to be present. We also request that it be moderated by a neutral, third party. We hope to use this space to be able to address some of these large concerns faculty have about the direction of our Colleges.

Again, we want to believe that District is working to make decisions that are in the best interests of our students and our city. But we need access to the data and reasoning that guides those decisions in order to understand them and how they best serve our mission.

We look forward to following up shortly with our formal requests for access to the data and rationale for decisions, and to schedule the Town Hall meeting.

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

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