FCCCC President's Address

CCC Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday December 1, 2016

Good morning Chairman Middleton, Board of Trustees and Chancellor Hyman. I am proud to present this report today on behalf of Faculty Council. I want to take a moment to commend Student Trustee Melanny Buitron for your presentation today and also Professor Jessica Bader and her students from the Ceramics Department at Harold Washington College. Thank you.

This month, first and foremost, we thank Chairman Middleton and Chancellor Hyman for the Special Announcement email that was sent on November 11th entitled "City Colleges Remain a Safe Space for All to Learn and Achieve". This email addressed many of the concerns that faculty, staff and students have expressed over the past three weeks by stating:

"Specifically, for those in our community who may be immigrants, we want to assure you that our colleges remain safe spaces for you to learn and achieve. Chicago, by city ordinance, is a welcoming city, which means that both documented and undocumented immigrants must be treated with respect and dignity by all City employees and should not be subjected to physical abuse, threats or intimidation. Creating safe and secure teaching and learning environments for all City Colleges students, faculty and staff remains our top priority. We look forward to seeing you in class, and helping you to continue to reach your goals of college and career success."

Thank you again Chancellor Hyman and Chairman Middleton for voicing your strong support for our immigrant students and providing a model for others to emulate. We are very proud of our District for articulating such a strong and principled stance in these uncertain times. Further, we are grateful to Mayor Emanuel who in a November 14th press conference stated: "To all those who are, after Tuesday's election, very nervous and filled with anxiety ... you are safe in Chicago, you are secure in Chicago and you are supported in Chicago… Chicago has in the past been a sanctuary city. ... It always will be a sanctuary city." These two public announcements make us deeply proud to be citizens and workers of the City of Chicago.

Finally, in light of our current political climate, Faculty Council would like to formally express our support for the statement issued by the American Association of University Professors this month:

"We in the AAUP pledge to redouble our efforts to:

• Oppose the privatization of our public higher education system and fight for higher education as a common good, accessible and affordable to all.

• Oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or national origin and fight for an equitable and welcoming educational environment in which all can freely and safely learn, discuss, differ, debate, and grow

• Oppose violations of academic freedom and of the broader rights to free expression in the academic community and fight for strengthened protections for and renewed commitment to the principles of the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure and the 1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities.

The future is still in our hands. There is nothing to be gained and much to be lost from resignation or despair."

Faculty Council recognizes that the citizens of our city, the students of our city, the workers of our city and the leaders of our city are diverse in so many ways, including race, language, religion, gender identification, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, citizenship and immigration status. I honestly cannot believe that I have to say this in 2016. My mother taught me this when I was a child. We must appreciate and honor our diversity and protect our most vulnerable neighbors, particularly in these uncertain times ahead.

This concludes my report. Thank you very much for your time today.

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