

FCCCC President's Address

CCC Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday April 6, 2017

Good morning Chairman Middleton, Board of Trustees and Chancellor Hyman. I am happy to present this report today on behalf of Faculty Council.

This month, first and foremost, we would like to acknowledge many important transitions that are happening across the City Colleges of Chicago. Transitions can be very challenging even under the best of circumstances and so faculty council has been working diligently to prepare and plan to help make our upcoming transitions with our new leadership team as smooth as possible.

In that spirit, we sincerely hope that this will be an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue regarding administrative searches: specifically, presidential searches, at our Colleges. It is absolutely critical that faculty are involved in these decision-making processes. The American Association of University Professors document entitled "Presidential Search Committee Checklist" states "The search for a new president is one of the most significant instances of shared governance in the life of a college or university, but it is also one of the most challenging. Although governing boards have the legal responsibility for selection of a president, the process of selection is fundamental in determining which candidate has the appropriate academic leadership and administrative skills needed to lead the institution. ...Joint effort of a most critical kind must be taken when an institution chooses a new president. The selection of a chief administrative officer should follow upon a cooperative search by the governing board and the faculty, taking into consideration the opinions of others who are appropriately interested...The Statement on Government emphasizes the primary role of faculty and board in the search for a president." (Retrieved from <https://www.aaup.org/issues/governance-colleges-universities/presidential-search> on 4/5/17) We believe that all upcoming college administrative searches must reflect the same spirit of shared governance demonstrated in the district-wide search for the chancellor and provost positions. We trust that our new chancellor supports the same.

We see today that our new chancellor will officially begin his role on May 1, 2017. The Faculty Council welcomes this opportunity to work with our new Chancellor, Mr. Juan Salgado. FC4 looks forward to sitting down with Mr. Salgado and our future provost regularly as we work toward a future for the City Colleges that honors our community-based mission and respects shared governance. Ultimately, we will work together to build trust and to create a culture of teamwork, communication and most of all mutual respect between faculty and administration.

Since the announcement in March that Mr. Salgado has been selected as our new Chancellor, we have been reading the news stories and we are happy to see that he understands the importance of community relationships and that he plans to listen to faculty and students in the spirit of “shared leadership.” We are pleased that he has experience with and understands the importance of education for non-traditional students, including students who need adult education, English as a second language and developmental education.

While we faculty fully understand the importance of workforce development, the City Colleges of Chicago are so much more than that. We must always remember the importance of a traditional liberal arts education. We hope that the new leadership team honors the multiple missions of our seven independently accredited colleges, one of which is to provide equal access and equity in college preparation to a diverse student population. Our institutions must help students explore a variety of courses, such as those that we offer in the arts, humanities, foreign languages, social sciences and STEM. These types of courses prepare students for a life of learning with the critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills that they need to thrive in a global economy. Exposure to a liberal arts education results in well-rounded individuals who will become our future leaders and global citizens. We must find that critical balance between job training and learning for the sake of learning.

We are also pleased to hear that Mr. Salgado acknowledges the important role of a provost in all of our City College’s Academic Affairs. Faculty Council plans to participate actively in the transition team for our new chancellor and for the provost after that candidate has been selected. Faculty Council has engaged in robust committee work during the past year to

prepare for this transition, and we plan to present information about where we are now, and where we hope to go in the future. The City Colleges have many strengths that we will be proud to highlight. We are also ready to confront the challenges we face today, which include declining enrollment, a statewide budget impasse and an unfinished building at Olive-Harvey College. We also need to work together to expand and innovate how we measure student “success.” Our graduation rate is only one very limited way to measure how we are serving our students and communities. We have an opportunity here to showcase our students, faculty and their accomplishments in ways that are more complex and meaningful than mere statistics.

We are very happy that Mr. Salgado recognizes that our students are “exceptional” and we couldn’t agree more! We look forward to seeing our new chancellor and provost at our colleges and in our classrooms. Here’s to the future of the City Colleges of Chicago- welcome!

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