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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
NOVEMBER 2, 2017**

FCCCC President's Address

CCC Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday November 2, 2017

Board of Trustees, Chancellor Salgado, Provost Potter: good morning! I am very happy to be here on behalf of Faculty Council. We have three new Trustees on our Board this month and I would like to welcome Trustee Swanson, and Student Trustee Campos: welcome to the Board of Trustees of the City Colleges of Chicago. This Board is our governing body and as such you all have incredibly important roles to play in the lives of our seven independently accredited colleges, our amazing students and faculty, and our educational mission to overcome inequality of access to higher education throughout our district. As our Chancellor has said, and we wholeheartedly agree: we are the most important institution of higher education in Chicago! I look forward to working with you over the upcoming year.

As I am sure you know, the Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago – otherwise known as FC4 – is the elected, representative body of all of the full-time faculty in our district. Once a month the FC4 President gives a report – this report – to our Board of Trustees and Chancellor. Under the current organizational structure of the Board of Trustees that means that our Board is only able to hear one report per month – averaging about 3-5 minutes – on behalf of ALL of our 550 + full-time faculty who are currently teaching at CCC. We believe that this is not enough information for our Board to truly grasp all of the many things that are happening at our colleges. And so today I am here on behalf of FC4 to propose two changes that we believe will greatly improve Faculty-Board communication moving forward. We have two proposals to share with you today: 1. A resolution approved unanimously by FC4 last month to elect faculty to serve on the Board and 2. A request that the agenda of our board meetings moving forward should accommodate more faculty and student presentations to our Trustees, our Chancellor and our Provost. I will begin by discussing the resolution and have also provided hard copies to Tracey Fleming to share with you as well.

Resolution to Elect Faculty to City Colleges of Chicago's Board of Trustees

Approved unanimously by FC4 on 10-18-17

The Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago (FC4) formally resolves to elect faculty members to serve on the Board of Trustees, any Board Committees, and participate in the activities of the Board of Trustees of the City Colleges of Chicago.

As stated in the American Association of University Professor's report "Faculty Communication with Governing Boards: Best Practices," "College governance works best when each constituency within the institution clearly understands its role and relationship to the other constituents and when communication among the board, the administration, and the faculty is regular, open and unmediated." Thus, electing faculty members to CCC's Board of Trustees would provide the opportunity for CCC to be governed with full representation and with regard to recognized AAUP best practice in higher education.

Additionally, we believe the inclusion of faculty on the Board of Trustees would:

- 1) Lead to a more robust system of shared governance whereby the expertise and views of a key constituent, the faculty, is included in Board discussion, planning, and efforts.
- 2) Create social and professional connections and improve mutual understanding between the Board and faculty.
- 3) Allow the board to be more informed of the day to day concerns of faculty and students
- 4) Improve Faculty-Board communication to prevent governance breakdowns and increase our capacity to fulfill CCC's educational mission.
- 5) Ensure that CCC is "conducted for the common good" of the citizens of Chicago. This is important as the CCC Board members are politically-appointed "trustees for the public." Faculty participation would facilitate a more representative, democratic, and informed governing process.

The Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago (FC4) respectfully requests a meeting of Board leadership and FC4 leadership to further discuss the benefits of faculty inclusion on the Board of Trustees and to discuss the details on how to move forward with this agenda. We sincerely hope that Chancellor Salgado supports this incredibly important improvement in our Shared Governance at CCC and will support this initiative as we move forward. [This concludes the resolution]

Secondly, we would like to propose that a portion of the agenda for our monthly Trustees meetings include a presentation from faculty and students at one of our seven colleges and /or one of our disciplines that is offered at multiple colleges. These presentations can be planned collaboratively between college Presidents, local Faculty Councils and FC4. We think this initiative would help our Board learn more about all of our colleges, students and faculty

while at the same time boosting morale and highlighting the many wonderful things we are already doing at CCC. Let us impress you.

In closing: Board of Trustees, thank you for all of your work on behalf of the City Colleges of Chicago. We know you are all volunteers and are serving in this capacity because you care about the City Colleges, and the City of Chicago. Your faculty care so much about our students and our mission and that is why we want the opportunity to serve alongside you and to show you even more every month about what we do at our colleges. I hope you will thoughtfully and seriously consider the two proposals I have presented to you today. We have worked incredibly hard to get to where we are today, and now we want to grow our institutional strength and influence through Shared Governance. Let CCC be the high bar for best practices in college governance.

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

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