

MARCH 1, 2018

FCCCC President's Address
CCC Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday March 1st, 2018

Chairman Massey, Board of Trustees, Chancellor Salgado, Provost Potter: good morning!

Faculty Council has stood firmly and continues to stand against program consolidations for the past three years. As a faculty member at Daley College, I remember very well how it felt at our college to lose not only our Nursing program, but also all of the nursing students who used to fill the halls on the third floor where I teach. The Daley College nursing faculty were, most confusingly, moved to Truman College for a year and then moved again to Malcolm X College one year later. Although I was not a member of that faculty, I remember as an observer thinking that this top-down, ask-no-questions decision made by our former administration at District Office was creating chaos for faculty and students. Nursing students are very savvy and I could hear them talking in the halls about how they would leave CCC because of the confusion around accreditation. FC4 raised these concerns regularly. While I do not want to spend a lot of time looking back at our troublesome history, I think there is an incredibly important lesson here for our new administration and trustees: LISTEN TO YOUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS WHEN WE RAISE CONCERNS and when we make suggestions. Please consider bringing Health Sciences back to our colleges.

In that spirit, I would like to draw attention to a policy that is before the Board for approval today. The revised “Program Inactivation Policy” is a huge step in the shared governance FC4 seeks with District Office. When the big push for program consolidations reared its head, FC4 looked to the policy manual to see what policies we had in place regarding program closures or “sunsets.” What we found was woefully lacking in clarity or purpose. Higher Education institutions accredited by, in our case the Higher Learning Commission, are required to have policies and procedures to ensure that we do not close programs in a way that ever hurts the students we serve. The FC4 Policy Committee, comprised of at least 1 faculty member from each college, worked on revisions to this policy beginning in the spring of 2016. Ultimately faculty members from our Curriculum Committee PACC joined FC4 in calling for revisions to the former “sunset policy.” When our Provost Dr. Potter joined CCC, he committed to working with us on these policy revisions. Last summer Dr. Potter, myself, Professor Maria

Jaskot-Inclan from Wright College and Sarah Lichtenstein from District Office wrote and revised the policy that is up for approval today. This new policy includes safeguards for our programs and ensures that any program inactivations are transparent and collaborative.

Finally, I would like to speak about the proposed changes to our tuition structure that are being discussed to help part time and international students be able to better afford classes at the City Colleges. The discussion process that the Chancellor has undertaken with these proposals has been a breath of fresh air. FC4 was included in the initial stages, as were SGA representatives at all of our colleges. Data has been provided for all of our questions and concerns have been answered. We are very happy to support these tuition changes and the collaborative process that went into deciding whether or not to implement them.

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