

FCCCC President's Address

CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Good afternoon Chairman Massey, Chancellor Salgado, Members of the Board, Officers of the District, faculty, staff and all others present.

I would like to thank the Board for this opportunity to outline some of the goals that the CCC Faculty Council will consider this coming academic year. The most important of these is addressing persistent challenges regarding communication among the different stakeholders in our CCC system, which continue to be of central concern to all involved. In my fifteen years working at this institution, there have always been major communication gaps between the decisions taken at the District level and the interpretation of those decisions at the individual colleges. Sometimes, decisions as simple as when open registration ends for the fall semester can be interpreted totally differently by each college administration based on some general parameters offered by the District. While I have seen positive improvement in some instances from our current local and District administration, there is still substantial progress to be made at all levels.

Although higher education is experiencing budget cuts, budget decisions demand time and research and must always be conducted with the best interests of our students in mind. We all should be reminded that budget matters have always been a challenge for public higher education in Chicago, and that our budget fluctuates based on the priorities of our elected officials at the time. Free tuition for students at CCC can be achieved only if we have appropriate allocated and committed funds from the city and the state. We recommend that the officers of the City Colleges of Chicago effectively communicate an accurate description of the financial needs of the only community college system in Chicago to our elected city and state officials, as well as highlight the crucial role that our institution plays in offering access to higher education and in improving the quality of life for our inner-city students. After all, this is a major contribution to the economic development of our state.

Recently, during a Faculty Council meeting, we asked faculty about the effect course cancellations have on their respective colleges. We need for you all to have a clear understanding of this effect on students, and by extension, on our faculty. Considering that this amount of cancellations are not happening at other college systems, we expect that we will see a higher rate of students transferring to other colleges. We don't currently have hard data on what is happening to students when their classes are cancelled, but campus representatives report that students have told them that they go to other colleges when their classes are cancelled. Students end up moving to those colleges permanently because they are nervous about future class cancellations at the City Colleges. Although those colleges do cancel some classes, they are not cancelling classes at the rate we are. Determining the costs and benefits of a program is a complex process that goes to the core of the shared governance concept. Faculty Council feels strongly that, under commonly accepted principles of shared governance, faculty should have the opportunity to participate in deciding what the appropriate costs and/or benefits criteria are; how they are measured; how they are interpreted; how they are analyzed; and how they are used to make decisions. Established approved program review processes should also be used to conduct any cost/benefit analyses.

I want to be a positive leader and voice for faculty with administrators. I also want the CCC Faculty Council to be a positive voice for faculty. Please be aware that the Faculty Council will

meet on July 26th. This meeting will generate additional areas of need for us to address at our upcoming retreat with respect to strategic enrollment initiatives, program review processes, and student support. As you can see, we will be very busy this year.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Adriana Tápanes-Inojosa, on behalf of the Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago