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

First of all, I would like to thank Prof. Croiture, current Faculty Council Vice President, for delivering my first report to City Colleges of Chicago Board in May. My name is Adriana Tápanes-Inojosa and I am the President of the Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago for the 2019-2020 academic year. I feel honored and excited to be standing here before you this afternoon and to briefly introduce myself at this Board meeting.

Let me share a few words about me, including the fifteen years I have spent at CCC. I was born in Caracas, Venezuela, and was already a recognized vocalist and pianist there when I moved to the U.S. in 1990 to continue graduate studies at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and later at Indiana University in Bloomington, where I earned a dual Master’s degree in Music, a Master’s degree in Arts, and a Ph.D. in Latin American literature. I began my teaching career in 1986 with the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra National Conservatory – widely known as “El Sistema” – working as a music theory and ear training instructor for children, as well as a choir conductor and as a piano accompanist for instrumental orchestra auditions and chamber music. I want to emphasize this latter role, with its dynamic interplay and preparation among performers, in order to convey the prompt attention to detail and efficiency needed to be successful at any kind of teamwork; teamwork that is required at my new position as CCC Faculty Council President. At the same time, I have been fortunate enough to continue teaching all these years after moving to the U.S., and the experience of transitioning to a different country with both a different language and culture, combined with an early opportunity to teach underserved communities in a city as tumultuous as Caracas, has developed for me a very different approach to obstacles in life.

We, the Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago, look forward to our upcoming undertakings this summer session in preparation to the new academic year. There is much work that needs to be done in our different join committees, such as the Early College Manual revision, the Fall 2019 Faculty Development Week Kick-Off day planning, the Strategic Enrollment Management team objectives and challenges, as well as the Fall 2019 CCC Faculty Council Retreat planning.

Finally, we would like to congratulate both Chancellor Salgado and AFSCME 3506 for reaching a new contract agreement. Our adult educators serve a very important role in supporting our CCC mission in the Chicago community, and we look forward to having them more involved in our share governance teamwork in the upcoming months. This is the beginning of the summer session at CCC and the beginning for a new mayor in our
city. We look forward to working together for the benefit of our students, and to securing appropriate funding in order to accomplish that. Thanks for listening, and let us leave today with the following quote by César Chávez, “You are never strong enough that you don’t need help.” Allow us to keep working together as a practical and efficient shared governance team, all in tune for the common goal of serving our extremely diverse community throughout the different neighborhoods of our city, as it is entitled in our own institution’s name “the City Colleges of Chicago.”

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