

FCCCC President's Address  
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting  
Thursday, February 13, 2020

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

This is the first CCC Board of Trustees meeting of 2020. Although we are currently in the 5th week of our regular Spring 2020 semester, I would like to welcome you to a new year. It seems that many things have happened, but I would like to begin with the following quote by Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Faculty has not been silent and has tried to participate in as many CCC District initiatives as possible that impact us. However, it seems that everything requested needs to be delivered today, tomorrow, or yesterday. Currently, we are participating in the Tuition Review Committee; the Post-Tenured Review Committee; the Developmental Education Committee—which encompasses four different subcommittees—; the IMPACT Summit Committee, and more. Over the last three weeks, we have also been invited to participate in the Early Alert RFP Committee, the Student Messaging System Committee, the Drop & Add Committee, the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) initiative, the Mental Health Early Action Committee, and an Equity Workshop from OCCRL. We applaud the inclusion of faculty as part of all these committees. Nonetheless, we need to have clear expectations about our participation in the short- and long-term because the time dedicated to each committee and initiative is one additional commitment beyond our individual college service and teaching load primary job duties.

It might not be a surprise to any of us that, once again, communication continues to be the main challenge at all CCC levels. Only this week, I had to call for an urgent meeting resulting from miscommunications between some individual college mid-level Academic Affairs administrators and former top-down mandates from CCC District. All this started back in December 2019 in reference to some apparent miscalculations of current course minutes at the various colleges. At that time, we attended an initial meeting with Academic Systems and Student Records District Director, Laura Clark, and Academic Process and Policy Executive Director, Autym Henderson. They insisted that Spring 2020 courses taught on Mondays and Wednesdays were meeting for fewer than the required 800 minutes of class time per credit hour. During this initial meeting, we were able to show that their concern was rooted in a miscalculation of class minutes. However, on January 10, we met a second time, now over concerns that Tuesday and Thursday classes were meeting for more than the required 800 minutes of class time per credit hour. Despite meeting twice with CCC Faculty Council leadership, some Academic Affairs individual college administrators started last week to request that minutes allotted to courses be modified for summer and fall 2020 semester class schedules.

CCC Faculty Council leadership, with the assistance of Local 1600 Vice President Robinson-Dukes and Grievance Chair Winters, had a productive urgent meeting last Monday with Directors Clark and Henderson, also including Provost Potter and Deputy Provost Edwards. At this meeting, we were able to identify a need for more intentional communications between CCC District administration and CCC Faculty Council leadership. This communication is most needed when questions or pre-conceived assumptions arise with regard to academic issues. Our goal in identifying communication gaps is always to improve shared governance and to anticipate and avoid unneeded misunderstandings. It is always important to remember that while many of our current CCC administrative leadership at the District and colleges levels might change, faculty and staff will remain at each college serving our students. In doing so, our staff will bear with all of the positive and negative consequences of policies approved by the CCC Board.

On a positive note, we must applaud the great impact that Dr. Janine Janosky has had at all levels since her arrival at Daley College. We also don't want to forget to welcome our new Harold Washington College President, Dr. Daniel López. We hope that Dr. Janosky will continue to raise the morale of the entire Daley College community, and we encourage a similar approach from the new leadership at Harold Washington College, as well as the rest of the CCC system.

We continue to look forward to the final approval and implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between Cook County Jail and CCC Board. Similarly, we hope to find a prompt resolution related to all internal CCC-EEO pending cases, so that those involved can find closure sooner rather than later. Last but not least, CCC Faculty Council wants to support our Adjunct Faculty in their current contract negotiations, and expects those to be done in a timely manner for the well being of our CCC student community.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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