

FCCCC President's Address  
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting  
Thursday, March 12, 2020

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

Time flies and we are currently finishing week nine of the regular semester at CCC. Students have eight more weeks to finish the Spring 2020 semester, including the week of Spring Break -which is approximately four weeks from today. By saying this, we need to consider addressing in more specific and intentional ways some potentially impactful health issues that could affect our entire CCC community at anytime in any of the colleges. Yes, of course I am referring to the rise in CODIV-19 cases across the state of Illinois, impacting already at least one CPS vocational high school and one private high school in Wilmette.

We applaud the Special Announcements sent by the Chancellor and the Provost last Monday, as well as the one sent yesterday by the Provost about exploring online or other possibilities to finish this spring semester if CCC has to go the same route of other higher education institutions across the nation and the state. However, we would like to see more specific sanitary measures taken at each of the colleges as of **last Monday**. Some initial suggestions would be as simple as making hand sanitizer wipes or disposable gloves available to students, faculty, and staff, or to consider possible preventive measures for students and personnel. Remember that faculty and staff usually exchange materials with students, and that many of our students and part-time employees have no health insurance coverage or sick days available to miss workdays. These are human issues that could seriously impact our academics in the short run if we are not proactive. I want to be clear that being proactive does not mean creating panic; it means being intentional about disseminating an organized preventive plan of action.

Over the last two weeks we have seen Chicago City Wire and WBEZ devote at least three different articles to the City Colleges of Chicago: one dealing with developmental education; another about CCC raising tuition due to a \$17 million budget gap; and another about CCC enrollment dropping 25% in 5 years. Instead of reading those articles distrustfully because of their content, it may be easier to simply implement more intentionally effective and open PR at CCC to communicate our current achievements and challenges to the Chicago community. Reporters are doing their job, and by providing them with our CCC direct channel of information, the CCC community may avoid possible misunderstandings generated between what is published in the local news and what the CCC leadership does not explicitly announce.

At the last Board meeting, I shared the several committees where faculty members were invited to participate in the extensive variety of District initiatives that are currently on the table. Today, I can report that seven full-time faculty colleagues—selected from each of the seven City Colleges by our Local 1600 leadership, in conjunction with Provost Potter and the Olive Harvey, Wright, and Kennedy-King CCC Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs—have spent over three months actively reviewing the current full-time faculty Post-Tenure process. This committee work concluded a week ago and resulted in a Post-Tenure Review proposal that is now in the hands of our Local 1600 Union leadership, waiting to be called for our CCC full-time faculty union members vote.

In a similar manner, the Tuition Review Committee has finished socializing the recommended tuition proposals at each of the seven colleges, and we are expecting the final recommendation to be shared at the CCC Board by Chancellor Salgado very soon. The IMPACT Summit planning committee has been working diligently in preparation for this year's summit to be held on April 3 at Truman College under

the theme of “Vision for the Future.” In the initial two days of open registration we already have about 63 registered expected attendees. Again, we need to consider that this kind of open events might be impacted pending future recommendations from the Chicago Department of Public Health.

As a reminder, CCC Faculty Council continues to await the approval and implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between Cook County Jail and City Colleges of Chicago by the CCC Board. CCC Faculty Council also continues to support our Adjunct Faculty in their current contract negotiations. On a final note, and even if “instructors, department chairs, program directors, and administrators should not be deciding on their own to pause face-to-face instruction” per Provost Potter’s special announcement from yesterday night, we expect the timely announcement of a more specific defined emergency plan of action in relation to the COVID-19 propagation risks in the Chicago area, and based on the disaster proclamation announced by Governor Pritzker at the beginning of this week.

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