

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

CCCC President's Address CCC Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday November 1st, 2020

Chairperson Massey, Board of Trustees, Chancellor Salgado, Provost Potter, Officers of the District, faculty, staff and all others streaming: Good afternoon!

I'd like to highlight a few of the initiatives that FC4 has undertaken since the last board meeting.

Our SGA committee had the opportunity to join the districtwide SGA leadership meeting. I will say that it was for my colleagues and I one of the most useful and substantive meetings we have attended. The opportunity to directly listen to our students through their leadership is invaluable. FC4 has voted and passed a motion to invite SGA leadership to address FC4 during our monthly meeting. Trustee Thomas, we will reach out to you soon with the meeting details. We look forward to continuing to work with you and District-wide SGA leadership. Please feel free to contact us at any point.

The work to expand online course offerings to the individual colleges is moving along well. Each college has been tasked with creating a local online strategy committee, inclusive of multiple stakeholders, to aid in the development and oversight of the respective college's online programs and offerings. This is a huge step forward and will help the district-wide steering committee to shape the direction of the work and tailor the infrastructure needed for the colleges to be successful. Each college should have established a committee by Thanksgiving.

Committee H is a committee whose goal is to address the unique needs of and serve individuals at various stages of their involvement with our carceral system, whether that be while they are detained or as they reenter society has met and is beginning to decide how to shape it's work collectively and to think though how we can as colleges and individuals aid in this very important work. We look forward to highlighting these initiatives in the near future and to engage our colleges in that work. The effects of the criminal justice and carceral systems are far reaching, as a public institution, our response must be far reaching as well. CCC is best poised to have real impact in this space, yet as a district we have dragged our feet. Particularly in these COVID times, and thinking toward a post-COVID society, we must have a plan of action, and we must be committed to this population just as much as we are to other vulnerable groups. And if we are going to have any real conversations about equity and anti-racism, this conversation must be part of it. This will be a standing item in my report, and I will be very clear about both where we are making progress and who and what has been an enemy of progress. From the conversations that FC4 has had with both Chancellor Salgado and Chairperson Massey in the past, unless they have changed their minds, they were in support of this work. As FC4 has committed to it, we are urging a renewed commitment at the Board and District Leadership level. We have a wealth of expertise within the faculty ranks and can guide this work, but we are to make any concerted

effort, and have meaningful impact within the lives of our citizens, we need real support, both in word and in deed. And when in this month alone, legal invoices have surpassed \$200,000, we expect that when it is safe for us to return to the task of creating educational opportunities within Cook County Jail and possibly local prisons, that the office of general council will add a line in the budget to get done whatever is legally necessary for this work to move forward since it has been unable to produce an MOU over the course of the last two years.

As much of these issues concerning our carcel system are related to policing and racism, I will conclude my report in addressing these two issues:

I would like to thank Eric Lugo for reaching out to FC4 to act on our request at the last board meeting for members of FC4 to be on the Anit-Racism Advisory Council. This is very important because individual faculty who may have been nominated by their colleges for this council are not necessarily active members of their local faculty councils and to my knowledge, none are members of FC4. Our goal is to be a space that can aid in communication from faculty to faculty, that only works if we are in the spaces to be knowledgeable about what's going on. This was a welcome invitation. One concern that we have about this group is the request for a two-year commitment for members on this committee. The problem isn't the two year commitment, it's more that racism has taken this country century's to perfect, much of the divisive rhetoric and tactics used in the recent and ongoing presidential election is a manifestation of this. I imagine that part of this groups work will be to provide sustainable infrastructure for the ongoing work of anti-racism and other intersecting or individual identities, helping us to address the barriers in our systems and practices that disadvantage our students, staff, and faculty. If the goal isn't for this group to be a movement not just a moment, it must become a goal. This may already be the case, and we hope it is.

Finally, at the last board meeting there was a resolution to authorize an agreement with Chicago Police Department to provide stress management and resilience training at Olive Harvey. I will begin by saying that we don't see anything wrong with this work, and the faculty who developed the training are to be commended. This training, as you know, is a stipulation of the Chicago Police Department Consent Decree approved on January 31, 2019, by a federal judge in which the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the City of Chicago negotiated comprehensive reforms of the Chicago Police Department. Key provisions of the consent decree include. The courses we will offer at Olive Harvey address the key provision of officer wellness. The provision aims to "Destigmatizing officer wellness programs" through "the development and implementation of training and a communications program related to officer wellness as well as the development of a comprehensive suicide prevention initiative." And "Improved access to mental health services" through increasing "the number of licensed mental health professional staff from three to at least 10."

If our tax dollars can go toward offering courses to CPD officers to aid in their mental wellness—particularly when some of their distress is caused by the rightful disgust of their systemic-racism and excessive use of force—we should also provide similar mental-health wellness initiatives for our students who may have been directly touched by these actions, or who experience the trauma associated with living in fear of police. While we have wellness centers at each of our colleges, what formalized ways are we destigmatizing mental wellness. Many of the perpetrated, black and brown individuals are least likely to receive mental health services. Are we addressing that? And an email after a tragic, violent event that says, “our wellness centers are available if you need them” isn’t enough. If the offer was ever enough, CPD would be requiring it. Certainly, we can’t force these services upon our students, but we could do a better job of marketing the various programs and services of our wellness centers.

The Resolution states that the curriculum offered to CPD will focus on three areas: mental health and wellness, financial literacy, and nutrition. How do we address the financial literacy of our students? We always talk about upward mobility, but where are we discussing financial literacy? How about nutrition?

The second part of the mental wellness provision addresses access to mental health services. The Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act passed in august of last year requires that:

Each public college or university must form strategic

partnerships with local mental health service providers to

22 improve overall campus mental wellness and augment on-campus

23 capacity. The strategic partnerships must include linkage

24 agreements with off-campus mental health service providers that establish a foundation for referrals for students when needs cannot be met on campus due to capacity or preference of the student. The strategic partnerships must also include (i) avenues for on-campus and off-campus mental health service providers to increase visibility to students via marketing and outreach, (ii) opportunities to engage the student body through student outreach initiatives like mindfulness workshops or campus-wide wellness fairs, and (iii) opportunities to support awareness and training requirements under this Act. (b) Through a combination of on-campus capacity,

off-campus linkage agreements with mental health service providers, and contracted telehealth therapy services, each public college or university shall attempt to meet a benchmark ratio of one clinical, non-student staff member to 1,250 students.”

The last time we inquired about this last semester, we hadn’t yet met this ratio. To date, I haven’t see the marketing around these services and partnerships. We are aiding in CPD meeting

the requirements of the Consent Decree and to my knowledge, we aren't fully in complicate with an Illinois statute.

You see, the glove must be turned inside out. If we can provide this information and service in a formal way for the perpetrators, we must provide it for the perpetrated. It is my hope that we can better advertise or find avenues to do so soon.

In closing, I have to acknowledge that in my time in this position, I have seen great efforts made toward shared governance. Thank you, Dr. Potter and his team, for meeting with us monthly. We look forward to speaking with you, Chancellor Salgado, next month.

Thank you for your time, this concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Sprewer on behalf of the Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago