

OCTOBER 5, 2023**Faculty Council Report
Thursday, October 5th, 2023***Pre-address Remarks:*

To begin with, FC4 would also like to extend our condolences to the family of former Vice President of Finance and Operations Kent Lusk. As I reflected on the times I shared space with him, I realized he was always quick to help as well as spiritually uplifting. I cannot think of a moment that I left his presence without a smile on my face. More specifically, one way that Kent Lusk was an all-star colleague was through his efforts in supporting some of the earliest access to funding for both bargained-for and non-bargained-for employees' professional development as it relates to policy and equity initiatives associated with FC4. To echo the chancellor, Kent will indeed be greatly missed.

Reiterating a past sentiment, thank you to the Board and Harold Washington College for again supporting health equity in allowing me to present remotely. Again, thank you to the all-star team that made these remote logistics possible: Juan Ortega, Greg Williams, Emma Mims, Bonnie Phillips, and Steve Saba. I also want to give a shout-out to security professionals James Anderson and Milton Owens who are some of the behind-the-scenes unsung heroes that help these meetings run smoothly.

The following is an approximately 4-minute-long report.

FC4 President's Address at CCC Board of Trustees Meeting:

Chairperson Massey, Board of Trustees, Chancellor Salgado, Provost Potter, Student Trustee Yehuda Goldbloom (who I in part appreciate for their vulnerability and attention to being visible for elements of their identity earlier today), officers of the district, faculty, staff, students, community members, and beyond, greetings:

Given that it has only been about two weeks since the last board meeting, there are only a few updates at this time. To begin with, we appreciate the swift attention and support we have seen on the part of the administration toward library faculty and their operational library-based needs since the last board meeting. We look forward to seeing that support continue. We also look forward to seeing the new language around the proposed book adoption policy changes that are under consideration for board approval in November. In turn, we hope the revisions will address the discord between faculty and administration with the current policy language in a win-win way.

With National Coming Out Day right around the corner, I would perhaps be negligent or, at the very least, immensely regretful if I did not share the following. In the 2014 *New York Times* bestseller *Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More*, the American writer, television host, director, producer, and transgender rights activist Janet Mock remarks, "I believe that telling our stories, first to ourselves and then to one another and the world, is a revolutionary act. It is an act that can be met with hostility, exclusion, and violence. It can also lead to love, understanding, transcendence, and community. I hope that my

being real with you will help empower you to step into who you are and encourage you to share yourself with those around you.” With that in mind, I want to extend gratitude to FC4 faculty and our administrative counterparts led by Provost Mark Potter for fostering a consistently psychologically safe forum for us to show up as our most authentic selves. Additionally, what I would regret not informing you all of today is that I am genderqueer—among other queer elements of my identity. I share this not as *my* coming out moment in a public space at CCC but as *our* communal call-to-action to create more understanding, inclusive, respectful, affirming, and celebratory spaces and exchanges. In turn, I would hope that this call-to-action nurtures a shift in culture to decolonize the prevalent binary consciousness around ways of knowing and being. Queer Black author, poet, ordained Zen Buddhist priest, teacher, and artist Rev. Dr. Zenju Earthlyn Manuel shares, “I remember when I was a child my father tipped his hat to strangers on the path. I would smile and nod along with him, and the strangers would nod back. What I received in the nod back from the strangers was recognition that we were living beings. It meant that my undeniable difference was nonetheless seen as part of the landscape of life. To be recognized as a living being without so much as a spoken word was to acknowledge a life that cannot be seen in a mirror but rather is seen only in each other.” Have you ever been the recipient of an unspoken respect and recognition of this kind? How did it make you feel? What might this recognition of worth and dignity look like when spoken and optimally operationalized at CCC? Can we work towards that together as seven strong leveraging some of the seeds we have already planted toward this effort?

In closing, here is a small but mighty challenge. Wear a hat on October 11th National Coming Out Day to visibly show your support for Indigiqueer and LGBTQIA+ folx and the many interpersonal, communal, institutional, and cultural forms of support CCC can provide. When possible, tip your hat to anyone of any identity as a recognition of their dignity and worth as well as to honor the spirit that all are welcome to be their most authentic selves at CCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Viggy Alexandersson on behalf of the Faculty Council of City Colleges of Chicago