

Faculty Council Report
Thursday, April 4th, 2024

Pre-address Remarks: Thank you to Senior Assistant Board Liaison Emma Mims and Chief Advisor Bonnie Phillips for their continued high-level operations that ensure the board reports are accessible to the CCC community and the city of Chicago that we feel grateful to serve. As a reminder, I will be teaching our remarkable CCC students at the time that board meetings take place this semester, but the FC4 reports will still be submitted in the usual cadence.

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

Chairperson Nuques, Board of Trustees, Chancellor Salgado, Provost Potter, Student Trustee Yehuda Goldbloom, officers of the district, faculty, staff, students, community members, and beyond, greetings:

Faculty council would like to express our gratitude for the new board members stepping into their respective roles in service to City Colleges of Chicago. While we are excited to have a full board of trustees, we would be remiss if we did not say that we were especially thrilled to see Oscar Sanchez on the board. Many of us witnessed Trustee Sanchez's exemplary leadership when he was a student as well as school club leader at City Colleges of Chicago. Beyond CCC, we have taken pride in seeing Trustee Sanchez contribute to advocating for the people of Chicago in a number of publicized efforts. If your appointment to the board is any reflection of the other appointed trustees, we are in good hands.

Faculty council would also like to express gratitude for the adult educators of City Colleges of Chicago. For anyone who might not know, there have been multiple requests for adult educators to have representation on faculty council. Our constitution currently does not allow it. We discussed this in the fall of 2023 and again this past month. Before this academic year, the issue has been brought up several times under at least two other faculty presidents, and the outcome was the same, which is that we will not be changing our constitution to include adult educators. To begin with, the primary request was based on adult educators wanting more control over the adult education curriculum. Adult education curriculum has very different federal rules and oversights than the general education curriculum. Besides that, our contracts are not equivalent. In contrast to the adult educator contract, our annual contract accounts for the time we would need to show up and be of voluntary service (i.e., uncompensated service beyond what is already built into our annual contract) in faculty council spaces. It makes us uncomfortable to ask for representation from adult educators who would not be compensated in an equitable way to show up in the faculty council space. Those were the two biggest reasons that faculty council, upon an official vote, decided that it is inappropriate for adult educators to join our faculty council. Not a single vote suggested otherwise. However, we still want to be supportive of adult educators in ways that are possible. We stick by what has been voiced for years that adult educators should form an adult educators faculty council that takes into account the limitations of

the federal regulations around their curriculum and how to equitably engage in uncompensated extra work of service to City Colleges of Chicago. That being said, faculty council encourages City Colleges of Chicago to support adult educators in what would make an adult education faculty council possible.

On another note and given some of the elements referenced in the last faculty council board report, we want to remind everyone that April is Stress Awareness Month among several other observances (e.g., Community College Month). While we have appreciated the professional development programming centered on how to overcome burnout in our community college system the last few years, we are hoping administration will have discussions with us to remedy issues that ultimately lead to burnout of faculty, staff, and administration. We look forward to discussing infrastructural strategies that remedy processes, policies, procedures, and practices so that the focus does not need to be on the consequent healing of people.

Respectfully submitted,

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