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Faculty Council Report
Thursday, February 1st, 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. Speaking of which, 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 Massey, Board of Trustees, Chancellor Salgado, Provost Potter, Student Trustee Yehuda Goldbloom, officers of the district, faculty, staff, students, community members, and beyond, greetings:

This semester, FC4 has begun constructing an internal dashboard in the hopes of resolving faculty concern-based agenda items more efficiently and effectively. Although the dashboard is still in its first iteration, we are already discovering data-driven insights. That includes but is not limited to which categories of agenda items take the longest to resolve and why, what needs-based patterns are emerging for productive and practical resolutions, and which administrators have demonstrated an authentic commitment to shared governance in response to our requests.

No surprise to us, Provost Potter and Deputy Provost Edwards were two of the top administrators embodying said authentic commitment as opposed to an optical commitment to shared governance. If we had faculty council awards based on our data points, one of those might include an award centered on quickest resolution time for big impact agenda items. For this academic year, General Counsel Gowen and team's new contract processes, supports, and more positively stand out in that area. The data-driven insights are not all positive or ideal, but we are eager to work with each agenda item's aligned stakeholders to move towards solutions together.

Besides our agenda items in need of resolution, there is a world of academic discovery and pluralistic cultural consciousness that we engage in with the support of our administrative counterparts. For instance, Executive Vice Chancellor Herrero, Vice Chancellor Collins, and Manager McBride have gone over and beyond in supporting our aspiration of increasing first generation consciousness and aligned professional development opportunities. One way this was achieved this semester was through the procurement and distribution of *First Gen: A Memoir* by Alejandra Campoverdi. Besides making it possible for faculty to have a copy of the text, they were also able to stock each of the seven City Colleges of Chicago libraries with two copies of the text as well—ensuring access of the text to more of our CCC community. Moreover, I would be remiss if I did not extend gratitude to our all-star library faculty for supporting getting the text into faculty's hands and library circulation per college.

Furthermore, faculty and administration have already begun to shape professional development around the text ranging from departmental to college-wide opportunities. District-wide, FC4 has offered a collection of guiding questions to pair with the text in the hopes of honoring and better supporting the lives of our first generation students. As an example aligned to chapter three, one of the question sets inquires, “Sharing a bit about her youth, Campoverdi discusses developing an exaggerated sense of responsibility as a parentified child. While there were costs to that, what assets come from that experience that we can give students a chance to exercise on campus? Additionally, what student services do we have in place to help remedy the effects of parentification trauma (“the third parent” trauma) as it relates to the student experience?” We look forward to sharing in thought partnership about these questions and more to better serve students.

On another note, faculty council unanimously agreed with the need for a subtle tuition increase. The long and short of it is that we want to better serve students. One way that faculty council envisions that happening is through our request for Hy-Flex modality classrooms and adjacent resources to ensure that students of any background, ability, learning style, neurodiversity, and more are able to have education meet them on increasingly holistic and humanizing terms.

Nonetheless, I am reminded of a logic by CCC namesake Malcolm X and his thoughts on how detrimental it can be to take a dollar out of your community. With that in mind and given that we serve a large demographic of historically marginalized populations, we are requesting that CCC consider the following. As we ethically take dollars from people in historically marginalized communities for their academic, personal, and professional advancement, we ask that CCC continue its commitment to working with external partners, including funders, who put *their* dollars into the advancement of those same marginalized populations. To illustrate, we see this happening with the organization *Bridges to Brighter Futures* in part under the leadership of Lara Pruitt, Director of Education Initiatives. Thank you to Director Pruitt and her team as well as other organizations that continue to help us keep costs remarkably low for our students and open doors of opportunity—even during these moments when a minimal tuition increase is necessary.

To close out this report on the first day of Black History Month, let us be reminded of what bell hooks shared in *Teaching to Transgress*. She asserts, “Education was about the practice of freedom,” and at CCC it still is. Thank you to the CCC community for its sustained commitment to students’ self-actualization, empowerment, and learner-centered pursuits.

Respectfully submitted,

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