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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
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Faculty Council Report
Thursday, May 2nd, 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.

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:

Nearing the end of the academic year always brings various layers of change. As it relates to FC4, many of the City Colleges of Chicago local faculty council elections take place just before the spring term ends. With that in mind, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to faculty council representatives who are transitioning out of their roles. Some of them are entering retirement, and we look forward to sustaining the strong legacy of academic policy, curriculum, program development, academic freedom, and professional development that they robustly contributed to.

Adjacently, we would like to welcome our newest faculty council representatives into roles that center integrity (i.e., academic and otherwise), inquiry without shame (i.e., a core facet of the upcoming academic year's faculty pillars framework), thought partnership between faculty and administration, need-based assessments, and more that always add up to making City Colleges of Chicago seven strong and foregrounding students' holistic needs before all else. Welcome to the team more directly, and we are excited to continue FC4's solution-oriented and people-centered service with you.

Upon reflecting on this past academic year, the efforts of FC4 amounted to triple digits of resolved agenda items. Strategies to efficiently resolve matters included transparent and consistent communications with multiple stakeholders—honoring the pluralistic ways of navigating shared governance. We also found that employing FC4 subcommittees resolved agenda items much sooner, comprehensively, and sustainably than what can be achieved in the more restricted time frames aligned to agenda items in FC4 executive council meetings.

Some strategies that did not work so well included some instances where there were multiple intermediaries of information. We also noticed that many things could have been solved much sooner if FC4 had a district-wide routine to meet with more administrative stakeholders (e.g., various levels of deans and coordinators). We are looking into what might be possible for an FC4 cadence with deans, associate deans, and coordinators next academic year.

There are upcoming agenda items that we are very willing to continue the conversation about, and, in turn, be part of the solution. Some of those agenda items include textbook affordability options, the implementation of a new syllabus management system, articulation of

modality nuances, strategies with intentional advising, the new student accommodations software, and more. Due to the faculty burnout rates and increased tension among numerous pockets of faculty and administration, we are also looking forward to supporting a shift in culture that collectively helps us all support the spirit of “Love it. Live it.” In other words, we look forward to shaping a culture that leads to a sustainable work ethic, where we feel as though we are giving of ourselves instead of giving up ourselves. If we can’t embody that, what are we really teaching our students?

Lastly and anything but least, we want to elevate the immense pride we have in our students who are graduating this weekend. Although graduation signifies a time of complex transition, we have all the faith in our students to be able to take on any challenge before them. To the students still continuing their studies at City Colleges of Chicago, please join us in celebrating your peers in a milestone that we are sure you, too, will achieve not too long from now. All things considered, we hope everyone has a restful vacation break and/or fruitful academic, professional, or personal opportunity shepherded in by the summer.

Respectfully submitted,

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