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ADOPTED – BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
JUNE 4, 2026

Faculty Council Report
Thursday, June 4th, 2026

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 Damian Wright, officers of the district, faculty, staff, students, community members, and beyond, greetings.

As a full council, FC4 has not met since the day before the May board meeting. Faculty are currently off contract. However, FC4 executive leadership met with administration to discuss the timing of changeable default course end date deployment for Brightspace course shells. This productive meeting was emergent because it addressed course end dates inclusive of the summer 2026 term. Faculty are still welcome to change the course end dates as they see fit given their rights under academic freedom.

That conversation was prompted by ongoing confusion stemming from misalignment between Brightspace course end dates and official institutional term dates as reflected in CCC systems. While faculty retain the ability to adjust course end dates in alignment with their pedagogical needs, these adjustments are currently made individually, contributing to confusion from student-facing information. Clarifying and better aligning system defaults remains an area for continued discussion.

Beyond what has already been discussed comprehensively, FC4 is expecting a few continued conversations. For one thing, we appreciate CCC district office administration alerting us to the need for discussing whether CCC will become an attendance taking institution. This was a policy request from the college-level vice presidents of academic affairs, and, at present, faculty are overwhelmingly against it. For one thing, the definition of being an attendance taking institution is anchored to a number of factors including marking students as absent by measures of active pursuit that fail to consider the expansiveness of various student access needs (e.g., neurodiversity of processing speed).

On another note, becoming an attendance taking institution can lead to federal financial-aid consequences for CCC students far sooner than expected by faculty, staff, and students. In other words, that aligns a student's withdrawal date to the last date of a barrier-creating definition of attendance that accelerates the return to Title IV calculations. In turn, students may see increases in lost aid or aid repayment amounts. Students who are part-time, temporally leave with the intention to return during a different term, have caregiving responsibilities, experience commuting issues especially with longer commutes do to many of the CCC programs being siloed to one campus during the years of "Reinvention," and are acutely or chronically ill will be hit the hardest from the attendance taking fallout.

Furthermore, becoming an attendance taking institution would mandate a change to teaching practice that faculty find problematic. Not to mention, CCC already has a workable structure for clearer student communication without needing to revise the institution's financial-aid posture. Faculty also worry about the uneven compliance burdens this would place on departments, class formats, and modalities. There are things to fix at CCC, and changing the policy on being a non-attendance taking institution is not one of those things.

Another worry of faculty is how this policy bumps up against union bargaining territory during an already tense time in negotiations. This policy seems to demand new work expectations. For that reason, FC4 is using the FC4U Bridge Method to defer the labor part of this matter to the union—inclusive of who would be responsible for missed or late data entry. The potential that this policy discussion picks up momentum raises serious concerns about enforceability and equity.

Another future conversation that FC4 anticipates having is anchored to the newly proposed federal gainful employment mandates. The comment period ended May 20, 2026. At this point, faculty worry it could be very damaging to community colleges. Some programs would likely lose Pell loan eligibility. Also, there are various metrics aligned to the proposal that could put an institution's Pell loan eligibility at risk after a number of years. The program-level and institutional-level detriments far outweigh any well-intentioned pursuits of the proposal. FC4 will continue to follow said proposal.

Saving the best for last, FC4 celebrates the three City Colleges of Chicago Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholars: Elizabeth “Ely” Barajas (Malcolm X College), Sabrina Bernard (Harry S. Truman College), and Julia Kantor (Wilbur Wright College). They each will receive the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship which generously offers:

[L]ast dollar funding after all institutional aid and can provide as much as \$55,000 per year to complete a bachelor’s degree at any accredited undergraduate institution. Beyond financial support, Scholars receive personalized advising to guide their academic and professional journeys. They also gain access to a nationwide network of more than 3,900 Cooke Scholars and Alumni, along with opportunities for internships, study abroad, and graduate school support, ensuring they have the tools needed to thrive beyond community college. (Jack Kent Cooke Foundation)

The scholars’ achievements include but are not limited to being part of honor societies like Phi Theta Kappa and Triota. Within their honor society service work, one student’s commitment to serving communities ranged from fundraising to support Chicago street vendors during times of heightened ICE presence to facilitating a reproductive justice series and later leading developmental disability month programming. At a time when federal support for many service-focused community initiatives is declining, it is especially encouraging to see our outstanding CCC scholars recognized and supported by the highly respected Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. We thank the foundation for seeing the value of our scholars and the positive praxis that CCC scholars are stewarding in the world.

For questions about a particular case, please reach out to FC4 President Vicky Alexandersson who can provide more details upon request within the parameters of FC4 disclosure and privacy permissions.

Respectfully submitted,

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