

26007

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

JANUARY 8, 2004

# Wilbur Wright College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

1300 North Narragansett Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60634-1591

Main Office, 773/777-7900; Admissions, 481-8200; Financial Aid, 481-8100;  
Business Services, 481-8500; Continuing Education, 481-8800; ALSP/GED, 481-8821;  
Humboldt Park Vocational Educational Center, 489-8989

FCCCC President's Address  
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting  
Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Chairman Tyree, Chancellor Watson, members of the Board, Officers of the District, faculty, staff and all others present, Happy New Year!

I thought today that I would briefly discuss the resolutions and goals that Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago has for the website, as befits the new year. When I was elected last May, the primary concern that I heard from the faculty was that there was no systematic dissemination of information throughout the District. Faculty didn't know what faculty and administrators were doing at other schools, what curriculum issues were resolved or pending, what various projects were funded or not or even where to go with particular questions. We were reinventing the wheel again and again and again and rumors of the fall of the Roman Empire, aka City Colleges, were rampant.

In discussions with faculty on the Faculty Committee, we decided that a good solution would be a web site available to members of the committee, which would allow access to relatively recently updated information on the pertinent issues, in essence, an electronic compendium of archival and current information. We are now in the process of preparing material for the site, uploading documents, and presenting the site to the faculty at all of the colleges.

Let me give some examples of the reasons that we decided on this solution and why we chose Blackboard for the site, which is really a course management system. One of the things we have already been doing is sending out electronic reminders of meetings and relevant attachments about issues. This has cut down on paper shuffling and costs and has allowed more consistent and up-to-date record keeping. But there are problems with this: the possibility of viruses attached to email attachments, the multitude of software (not everyone uses Microsoft Word for word processing), and the inconsistencies in reading emails. The Blackboard site will now allow us to provide these documents in a pdf file format for all to use and without the threat of viruses. The Blackboard site is also independent of any one particular person, so it becomes the repository of institutional memory; we no longer have to rely solely on individuals to provide us with the history of

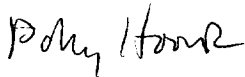
change in the system. It will be automatically documented in the system. This is particularly important with the changes in personnel that the District has seen in the past couple of years and will continue to see in the near future. There are other reasons for this kind of data collection, but these are the most obvious.

Faculty Council has been using a commercial site, Yahoo Groups, but we decided to switch to Blackboard because faculty is more familiar with this and the District can supply us with technical support. It is also a much more supple and easier format than a more traditional website. We wanted something that would easily accommodate changes and updates, and Blackboard fills that bill.

We're close to completing the first phase of launching the site, which includes adding all the faculty and currently available documents to the site. In February, I will walk you through the site and show you some of the highlights, in addition to my report on other issues of the committee.

That concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Polly Hoover".

Polly Hoover

FCCCC President