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Wilbur Wright College

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Address to Board of Trustees July Meeting
Thursday, July 15, 2004

Greetings, Chairman Tyree, Chancellor Watson, members of the Board, Officers of the District and all others present.

The work of the Committee A and the Faculty Council from the April meetings has begun its travels through the system. I want, at this forum, to thank publicly Marcie Aranda and Pat Pikes for all their work on facilitating the movement of curriculum through the labyrinthine system. Their knowledge of the overwhelming paperwork helps us all. Thank you.

Already I am receiving emails about materials for the first committee meetings of the fall semester. These include material about the CIS/IT program changes as a result of the quality review done two years ago, nursing program changes, and other miscellaneous curriculum concerns. Our first meeting looks to be as jam-packed as our last meeting. WE also have on our agenda a retreat for members of Faculty Council for August 20th. It promises to be a stimulating retreat.

Let me conclude with a few remarks about the budget crisis. Faculty response to the budget problems fall into a continuum from anger to exhaustion, paralysis, and apathy, not because we don't really care but because we don't know whom to believe and what is actually happening. Moreover, we don't know how we might effectively contribute to this battle. At my campus, the hires for which we were originally budgeted have had to be, I hope, temporarily suspended. Among other things, this means scrambling for qualified adjuncts to cover the scheduled classes and asking fulltime instructors to extend even further their responsibilities and duties. But these are minor problems compared with the possibility of college closures and the ramifications of the uncertainty of our futures. Even without the full faculty on campus, rumors are rampant with regard to this budget crisis in Springfield. I think it's going to be a bumpy ride into the fall semester.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,

Polly Hoover
President of Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago