



February 27, 2019

Dear HWC Community,

I hope this communication finds you well (and I hope you had the chance to vote this week!). We'll be watching to see how things shape up in the next couple of months with our elected officials.

As always, the college has some great initiatives and momentum that I want to share with you this month.

Thank you to everyone who attended our accreditation celebration. As you know, the college had a successful accreditation visit in October. The Higher Learning Commission has given the college another ten years of accreditation. I can't thank you enough for all of your efforts and involvement in continuing to move our college forward! If you haven't had a chance to see the full accreditation report, you can find it [here](#). While we have ten years of accreditation, the college will continue its deliberate efforts to understand and lead with quality in mind at all levels of the institution.

City Colleges is in the process of sharing a tuition proposal with the college community. Last year, the non-partisan Civic Federation, which reviews CCC's budget, recommended that City Colleges adopt a best practice by outlining a multi-year tuition policy. The current proposal is a 2 percent increase for each of the next four years. That means the tuition plan would, at most, increase in-district tuition by \$3 per credit hour per year or \$36/semester for a full-time student at a time when the Pell grant is increasing by \$50/semester this fall for full Pell eligible students. Even with an increase, our tuition would remain competitive. I plan to share this information at our monthly student shared governance meeting today from 3:30-4:30pm in classroom 1002. I look forward to receiving our community's feedback.

We have entered the FY20 budgeting season, this means the college has begun to hear from all departments and areas about their personnel, supply and contractual needs for FY20. Given the climate of the city of Chicago and the overall district budget, we are entering a time when our financial responsibility will be more important now to help us have a stronger future. I will have more updates on our FY20 budget at the Spring State of the College on April 12.

During the February board, the Trustees moved to approve our contractual partnership with Carol Ross Barney Architects who will help the college think about a redesign of spaces in our college to best support our students and provide some modernization to the building. The college will relaunch the "space committee" that once existed a few years ago (though I anticipate some new members on this committee). Stay tuned for more space projects in the building later this year.

Also, this semester I had the privilege of visiting an architecture course (thank you Ivanhoe!) in which students asked some very candid questions about the college's space. It was great to meet with students who are interested in learning more and being a part of space redesign conversations the college is engaging in. If I can ever be of service to you and your students, and/or if you'd like me to visit one of your classes please send me a note.



The college's three-year strategic plan development efforts are still underway. We've had more faculty and staff join the various committees (thank you for your time!). During the Spring State of the College we will continue to share more details. Also, during our monthly shared governance meetings we will continue to provide updates on the plan's progress (our next shared governance meeting is on March 12). The goal is to release a college specific strategic plan during the summer of 2019.

A quick thought on partnerships and relationships – in the last few months I've been encouraged to hear how faculty, staff, and college leaders are beginning to engage together with potential college partnerships. From our expanded partnership efforts with Chicago Public Schools, to partnerships with potential music industry partners and arts partnerships, it's been so cool to see all of us engaged together with faculty and staff at the table. The more we work together to leverage our relationships with our communities and industry partners the more access we can provide to our students. I encourage you to visit with Chadra Lang, our Associate Dean of Career and Continuing Education on the 11th floor if you have connections to other potential employer partners.

The future of the college's success continues to rest in the quality and connections that we bring to our students and to the communities we serve. No one person can do this work alone, it does take all of us to continue to find paths, innovation, relationships and partnerships to move the college forward, so we can continue to be recognized as the best college in the city of Chicago!

I look forward to seeing you around the campus. I hope you continue to have a great semester (and that it warms up soon!).

Sincerely,

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