Good morning Esteemed Colleagues, Chairman Wolf, Chancellor Hyman, and Officers of the District.

I have been asked to speak to one of the talents of teaching, and given my current position as FC4 president, I thought it fitting to talk about Academic Citizenship, Shared Governance, and Leadership, the fourth talent listed in your program.

I say to all faculty here today, your participation as academic citizens,--your discipline expertise, your creativity, your knowledge, wisdom, and experience as educators--is greatly needed to enrich both policy and curriculum in the City Colleges of Chicago--so that students who come to City Colleges will experience a world class education no matter the certificate, program, or degree they choose to pursue. All faculty play a key and necessary role to ensure students have just such an educational experience. Through your committee work, you are the go-to team for curriculum and program development, special initiatives, hiring, peer review, tenure, and academic policy and standards. Now more than ever, City Colleges needs your commitment to the time honored tradition of academic committee work.

But for meaningful academic citizenship to occur, shared governance is a must. I say to faculty and administrators alike, as we all return to our college campuses this academic year, let us do so with a renewed commitment to the partnership between faculty and administration necessary to fulfill the missions of our respective colleges. When the leadership of administration willingly and in good faith partners with the creativity, expertise, and institutional knowledge of faculty, we empower our colleges and our students' educational experience.

Clearly, FC4 has a key role to play as well, but before I speak to this point, I would like to take a moment to introduce the local council presidents. When I call your name, would you please wave, shout out, or stand--whatever you fell comfortable with--

Professor Michael Held, Daley College  
Professor Hope Essien, Malcolm X College  
Professor Gwendolyn May, Olive-Harvey College  
Professor Desmond McFarlane, Kennedy-King College  
Professor Rosie Banks, Harold Washington College  
Professor Maria Jaskot-Inclan, Wright College  
and Professor Joy Walker, Harry S Truman College
These seven local council presidents--along with FC4 officers, which include myself as president; vice president, Professor Polly Hoover, Wright College; curriculum chair, Professor Maria Jaskot-Inclan, Wright College; and secretary, Professor Julius Nadius, Wright College--make up the Executive Council, which is an advisory body of FC4.

Over the summer, the Executive Council met twice, and the discussions from those meetings will be shared in fuller detail with the entire council delegates when we return to session this academic year---but as a quick preview, the council will be discussing issues on curriculum and program development, IAI, the Key Performance Indicators project, ways to improve communication between FC4, CCC faculty, and district and local administration, the State of Faculty Report we hope to complete this academic year, and the many Reinvention initiatives currently underway. It is imperative local council presidents and FC4 delegates brief their respective faculty on the discussions, motions, and decisions, made at these meetings. You are the vital link that facilitates fluid communication from local to district and district to local---and this is an important responsibility as part of your service as an FC4 representative.

To further improve communication, we would now like to show you the beginnings of our new faculty council web site. Navigating to About Us/Departments/Faculty Council from the City Colleges home page will take you to the web site. Currently, we have two sections--Publications and Learn more, which host institutional documents, links to the AACU, AAUP web sites, and Blackboard. We will have a meetings calendar, and we have started a reading list of books about issues in higher education. If you would like to suggest a book, you can do so by emailing Professor Rosie Banks--her email address is listed on the web page.

We would also like to include on the web page photos and two minute videos, which celebrate your talents of teaching: short videos which tell the story of special initiatives you have led, labs you have built, awards and grants you have received, student clubs you have advised, scholarship you have published, plays you have directed, and most importantly--those stories which reveal the ways in which you have inspired and led students to success in their academic careers. So, if you have photography, video, and multimedia skills and want to help create these very short photo essays and videos, please email me asap. You can use the email link under Contact Information, and your email will be sent directly to me.
It is our hope this web site will become a useful tool for institutional documents and resources relevant to CCC faculty. This is a modest beginning, but in the next two weeks, we would like to hear those suggestions you may have about information and resources you would like to see and stories you’d like to tell on the web page. Again, make your suggestions using the email link under contact information--and after we get your feedback, we will begin again populating the web site with resources, links, and stories that reflect your suggestions.

I will close by saying, strong academic citizenship combined with good faith shared governance helps secure the academic freedom we need to teach--and when we continue to secure this freedom, we create for our students an atmosphere of broad intellectual inquiry, and we set the standards for an excellent education.

I wish everyone here a fantastic academic year.