

**DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees on June 12, 2012**  
**Karolyn van Putten**

Thank you Mr. President, and good evening trustees, chancellor, district administrative center staff, college presidents, colleagues and members of the public.

As we are all painfully aware, most of this past academic year students have appeared before the board to advocate for much-needed changes in the delivery of financial aid services at the four colleges. In an effort to deal with these issues, student representatives (including Student Trustee Cervantes), Vice Chancellor Ng, Financial Aid Director Nicholes, Mr. Grivich and I have now had 3 meetings with the chancellor, most recently earlier this afternoon. We will have another follow up meeting in two weeks to further evaluate our progress in responding to student suggestions for solutions to the problems they have articulated.

While those suggestions are being implemented, increasingly we discover that the issues with financial aid are not just the responsibility of that service unit. Instead, we are learning that situations outside their control are having a detrimental impact on how financial aid offices are able to do their work. These situations include problems with software programming, faculty roll book submissions, and systems for sharing essential information among district office service units. In short, while the problems look like financial aid, some of them really originate elsewhere in our system. We will continue to monitor the district's progress in eliminating these problems.

In my report to you on January 24 this year, I expressed faculty concerns about the use of surveillance security cameras inside smart classrooms. During that same meeting, PFT President Goldstein expressed the same concerns. At that time, we thought it might be possible to provide reasonable assurances about the use of those cameras. Since then, however, the District Academic Senate has officially recommended that any cameras currently installed be removed and that any cameras yet-to-be installed should not be. We stated that recommendation in writing and I met in person with General Services Vice Chancellor Ikharo on May 11 to deliver the written document.

At that meeting, Dr. Ikharo agreed to remove the cameras and to refrain from installing any others. His agreement and the background that led up to this were shared, in writing, with the chancellor and PFT president on May 16. Earlier this afternoon Dr. Ikharo informed me that although he intends to keep his word, the plan for removing the cameras is somewhat more involved and complicated than first acknowledged. I am mentioning it to you tonight so that you will be aware of our efforts to instigate corrective actions.

Both the PFT and the DAS are in agreement about this issue, and I'm aware that PFT representatives will be meeting about it with District office staff members on Monday, June 18. It is my expectation that the situation will soon be resolved, as Dr. Ikharo has promised, and that before much more time has passed there will not be any surveillance cameras inside our classrooms.

That concludes my report for tonight. Thank you for receiving it.