

Foothill & District Academic Senate Minutes April 26, 2021

Part 1 – Foothill Academic Senate Meeting

#'s represent items numbered on the [Agenda](#)

1. Meeting called to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. Roll call

Executive Committee

Kathryn Maurer (President)
Eric Kuehnl (Vice President)
Robert Cormia (Sec/Treas)
Alexis Aguilar
Brian Murphy
Cara Miyasaki
David Marasco
David McCormick
Dixie Macias
Donna Frankel
Farima Fakoor (absent)
Jordan Fong
Kerri Ryer

Mary Thomas
Matthew Litrus
Milissa Carey
Mimi Overton (absent)
Rachelle Campbell
Rita O'Loughlin
Stephanie Chan
Tracee Cunningham
Voltaire Villanueva
Senate Liaisons
Carolyn Holcroft
John Fox
Josh Pelletier (absent)
Kristy Lisle

Kurt Hueg
Abhiraj Muhar
Guests
Chris Chavez
Dokesha Meacham
Roosevelt Charles
Ellen Judd
Katy Ripp
Ria Vidyasagar
Valerie Fong
David Ulate

3. Kathryn reviewed the topics for the day and the agenda was approved by consensus. The April 5th and April 12th minutes were adopted by consensus.

4. No public comment

5. Prof. Michael Wilcox (teaches at Stanford and in the Foothill Anthropology Dept.) spoke about the importance of Foothill College's geographical location on Ohlone ancestral areas. Land acknowledgements are increasingly important, lots of student interest, people want to demonstrate acknowledgement of injustices. But it's also important to remember land acknowledgments are a political statement, and there are implications of not getting appropriate tribal approval. There are also landless tribes to acknowledge.

The Muwekma Ohlone tribe is the tribe associated with land Foothill sits on. Prof. Wilcox said the history of the tribe isn't well known in the Bay Area, and work like being done through Foothill and its relationship to the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space is helping to bring more awareness to this history. Highway 680 goes right through their ancestral land. Missions are part of the history of Native Peoples of California, but really only a very short, less than 100 year part of that history, and yet that's all that's really taught. There have also been damaging pronouncements by early anthropologists (like one at UC-Berkeley in 1920's) that declared some tribes as extinct, just because they no longer appeared "exotic enough." We need to work to counteract these damaging narratives. Land acknowledgments are a part of this effort, and yet it's problematic to leave tribal approval out of that process – who gets to construct that narrative? We also need to go beyond land acknowledgements – perhaps even dedicate part of the land to some type of effort to promote tribal interests and recognition.

Kathryn stated that attached to the agenda is the [new land acknowledgement](#). Mary Thomas asked if the land use presented here is okay to promote on the library website. Prof. Wilcox says there's one more change the tribe would like to see, and then it will be. Please hold off making it totally public for another couple of days.

6. Approval of the consent calendar with [new appointments](#) to Dean of LRC search committee was made by consensus, with the correction that space is being reserved for faculty from Pass the Torch (not Puente) and TLC.

7. Short shared governance updates - a new [program creation workgroup](#) was formed under the Curriculum Committee. Membership will give priority to current or past members of the College Curriculum Committee and/or Exec Committee of the senate.

The C&C group released a [preliminary report on external evaluation of Foothill College shared governance](#). There was a comment that the report is very damning, "rubber stamp and dissatisfaction", 30-50% of faculty are (unhappy) about the governance structure. Kathryn mentioned that C&C will be getting a presentation from the RP Group at the next meeting in May, and we will consider in senate how to agendize discussion about this report, and its implications.

Kathryn talked about two workgroups/task forces FA is forming: one on faculty evaluations and one on class size. Both are areas of overlap between FA and academic senates, so FA will be inviting academic senate reps to these groups soon. More coming soon on this.

Cara Miyasaki reported on an all tri-chairs meeting that took place that morning. They talked about the timing of faculty appointments to committees for the following year that should be made in spring quarter. Kathryn reaffirmed that calendar is what is also in our senate constitution for committee appointments, but we're just lacking the ability to make it happen right now.

8. AS Letter to President Nguyen Update: Kathryn said that officers will be putting this item on the agenda every meeting until senate decides no longer needed. The update for now is that President Nguyen would have liked to be at the meeting today to respond to the letter, but was with student Clubs collaborating on an Anti-Asian/AAPI hate event. Instead she will be coming to our May 3rd meeting, and looks forward to an opportunity to dialogue with us. In addition senate officers have been invited (starting May 3rd) to attend President's Cabinet meeting (one of our asks). There is also a meeting this Friday (April 30th) with the Chancellor, President & senate officers about the letter and the asks. Last, Classified Senate voted to also support our ask #7 around creating a Shared Governance Task Force, and this was discussed at last Friday's C&C meeting. Looks like C&C is going to support that and President seemed in support as well.

9. AP 4222. APM has tasked us with review, which includes language coming from the Community College League of California. Kathryn stated we don't need to adopt the exact language given in this document, but it is a good guide to adopt as it reflects updates to Title 5. Stephanie Chan commented that only one pending discussion regarding the statement around students with a learning disabilities, and Mimi Overton (not present) will be looped into the document. We'll bring this back on May 10th to approve and send back to APM.

10. The big topic for today - Senate Constitution and bylaws. Kathryn prepared [a PPT to talk through the timeline and changes](#). The constitution working group met nearly every week to research and draft the document provided for review, and still ran out of time. We need to be finished by April 5 at the latest if we were going to ratify changes this year. We intend to continue work with an eye to going back out for changes via general election next year as well. This isn't idea to ask for changes two years in a row, but it was all that is possible. A senator commented that we should just accept "good enough" for now with most important priorities we want to see changed, especially since we know we can revisit next year again.

First thing is to look at the timeline for review and ratification. Today we wanted to pay particular attention to the duties of the officers, then division representation. Next week have the conversation around voting rights of (non-faculty) members. Amendments to the constitution need to be approved at the executive committee and then ratification by the full faculty. We need to have Exec Committee approval by our May 24th meeting, then general elections with candidates and constitution approval from May 26th – June 4th. Senators agreed to this timeline.

Article IV describes officers and their duties, the most significant change is the addition of executive VP, who would primarily support the executive committee, and then designate VP of Curriculum Committee, who will continue practice of primarily supporting the CCC. Senators seemed to unanimously agree with these amendments, and the clarification of the duties of all the officers. No edits were suggested and lots of thumbs up were given.

Division representation. One edit had already come in, so The LRC is now the Learning Resource Center with one Library rep and one Tutoring Rep, and so also changes to LA and PSME language ([new April 26th draft](#) shown to senate at the meeting). Coming up with a definition of divisions in the constitution was difficult. Comment that we're pushing a lot of this language into a separate bylaws for next year, so we can change again if needed.

A comment was made that the term "division" is perhaps the issue, and maybe we should consider "area" or "academic area" instead. No consensus reached, and for now "division" will stay unless get a motion to change. We are going to vote to approve at the next meeting regarding officers and division representation next week May 3rd.

11. Brief update on the part-time faculty appreciation event - Donna Frankel has been working on a lot of ideas. Office of Instruction with Kurt and Kristy partnering more, and potentially a F2F venue this year. Donna talked about the Metro City Restaurant and Bar - Academic Senate would kick in a small amount, and Office of Instruction looking into possibility to fund as well. Donna went to the location and checked out the location for safety and parking, and both looked very good. As soon as we have some guidance from Office of Instruction we will send an invite via Outlook and update senate.

12. Next and last item on the agenda is - expanding Owl scholars/referrals of student support services into more areas of instruction. Kathryn talked about all the issues and struggles that students have been facing, and how challenging it is as an individual faculty member – especially if teach large classes – to support students, or even know what the issue is or what serves Foothill may offer to help. We also see that there are developments, especially with Guided Pathways, that make it clear why closer connection – maybe even blurring lines – between instruction and student services is where we need to go in higher education. Chris Chavez Owl Scholars then introduced himself, and talked about his work to address achievement gaps as a student services liaison - integration of instruction and students services

to collaborate and work together. Dokesha Meacham discussed early alert and Starfish into classes.

Chris showed a [draft Infographic](#) that can help faculty know how to make a referral using Starfish. Every faculty member has access to Starfish through My Portal (Apps, Faculty section).

Areas to refer a student for help: food security, housing insecurity, financial aid, or students who don't speak up when they need help, students struggling who need academic help and tutoring. Document Owl Scholars/Starfish Referral System. Starfish isn't integrated with Canvas (yet) Chris demonstrated Starfish. Starfish will show the various associations with people, learning communities, services, etc. that students already have (network tab). Some students have the same problems in all of the classes they attend, and faculty may discover that when referring students for services.

Feedback from instructors, some already reach out to students, but our student services are growing so much stronger, and are so integral to student success, an automation tool can only help. More demonstration of the Starfish system. On the Starfish side, staff record their interactions with a student, and the faculty member is alerted. Starfish is found in MyPortal Apps, faculty section Starfish early alert

Kerri made a comment about how students with advisors (like CSU and UC) get assigned to a faculty advisor, and they check in with that faculty advisor from time to time. Could we do this at Foothill College?

Some next steps are to try to get some faculty in every division to pilot this so we can check in with about what other faculty support is needed, and how to improve the Infographic, and the program. Kathryn mentioned that we are coming to Academic Senate early, as thought partners and collaborators. We will agendize this discussion again in a future meeting once senators have a chance to talk to faculty in their divisions.

13. For the good of the order: Professor Rebecca Ryan is presenting a webinar on public health and COVID-19 vaccination at 4 p.m. as part of the Science and Learning Institute (SLI's) student COVID health series.

14. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.