

Foothill & District Academic Senate Minutes April 12, 2021

Part 1 – Foothill Academic Senate Meeting

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

1. Meeting called to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Roll call

Executive Committee

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

Kerri Ryer
Mary Thomas
Matthew Litrus
Milissa Carey
Mimi Overton (absent)
Rachelle Campbell (absent)
Rita O’Loughlin
Stephanie Chan
Tracee Cunningham
Voltaire Villanueva
Senate Liaisons
Carolyn Holcroft
John Fox

Josh Pelletier
Kristy Lisle
Kurt Hueg
Abhiraj Muhar

Guests

David Ulate
Ellen Judd
Hilary Gomes
Katy Ripp
Priya Vasu
Ria Vidyasagar

3. The agenda (short 30-minute meeting due to District Senate meeting in a separate Zoom room immediately following) was approved by consensus. Comments on the April 5th minutes: Senator asked if we could specify a bit more in the minutes for the Mental Health Resolution, but didn’t have specific edits. There was agreement that given the short meeting we would delay approving these minutes until the April 26th meeting, and Kathryn will reach out for assistance in getting proposed edits to this section.

4. No public comment

5. Approval of the consent calendar with [new appointments](#) was made by consensus.

6. Governance updates. Kathryn shared that two governance memos were sent out by President Nguyen that week, sent to all the Councils, include Admin Council, but not the senates. Kathryn urged senators to share these memos with their constituents, as both of them are likely of interest to most faculty. In the [one to E&E on Ethnic Studies](#), the President is proposing the creation of an Ethnic Studies division. In the one to [C&C on the Governance Assessment](#), the President is tasking C&C with potentially an entire governance redesign, and this does create some challenges for the Academic Senate, as we’ll talk about in the proposed senate response on governance, decision-making and collegiality in action follow-up.

Kathryn also updated about the Advisory Council meeting on Friday April 9th, specifically the discussion on faculty prioritization, which was quite contentious and which many people in attendance were still talking about. She said it was a very challenging conversation, and did want to clarify some of the issues, as there seemed to be some confusion about the process. To summarize, per an “interim” faculty prioritization process which both Academic Senate & Advisory Council approved back in the fall (interim because the workgroup is still figuring out

what the best process is/should be and acknowledges that the current process needs improvement), requests for full-time faculty positions are accepted up through a November deadline, and then prioritized by a Prioritization Committee made up of 13 people: 9 administrators, 3 faculty (2 senate reps & 1 FA rep), and 1 classified staff (President of Classified Senate). When this group met in December, and Advisory Council approved their list in January, we thought there would only be two positions funded, so the Committee stopped prioritizing at five positions. President Nguyen then selected the #1 position (Ethnic Studies) and the #3 position (Humanities) to fund/hire. She also funded the #5 position, a DRC Counselor, out of categorical funds. The remaining positions, Vet tech (#2) and General Counselor (#5) were not funded. However, now the District is actually using some of the funding from the SRP that we're able to use early, and so Advisory Council was asked to approve the additional selection of positions, and include a request not initially submitted for a Psych Services Racially-Informed Trauma Counselor. The Prioritization Committee returned to its work of prioritizing all remaining requests, including the Psych Services Counselor, and presented the full list of 14 remaining request to Advisory Council at the Friday meeting. Some Council members and guests at the meeting were disappointed that the Psych Services Counselor wasn't ranked high enough, and a motion was made to move the position to #3 (following Vet Tech & General Counselor). The motion passed with 7 votes, but 3 abstentions from faculty, who wished to honor the process approved by Academic Senate & Advisory Council.

7. Senate action and response to collegiality in action - a small group with names on the agenda were tasked to review all of the feedback after the February 5th Collegiality in Action meeting, and discussions related to the student letter, challenges regarding Senate reps on governance councils, ongoing faculty concerns with decision-making, etc. A decision was made to draft yet [another letter](#), reiterating our commitment to a strong working relationship (partnership) with the President. The group was proposing that the letter be sent to the President.

Cara Miyasawki moved to approve that the letter be sent to President Nguyen, David Marasco seconded the motion. There was a comment about deep displeasure by faculty and staff about the way things are going at Foothill College. A comment was made that it was a "meaty read" and suggested senators may not be prepared to vote today. A senator asked for clarification on the timing of the "asks" in the letter. Kathryn explained that each ask had a suggested "deadline," and that we'll need to assess where we're at in May. We proceeded with voting. The roll call vote was 18 yes, two abstentions, and no "no" votes.

8. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. to attend the District senates meeting.

Part 2 – District Academic Senate Meeting

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

District Academic Senate President called the meeting to order. And De Anza and Foothill College Academic senate officers did introductions.

Public Comment: De Anza talked about an athletic student survey

5a: FA gave a presentation on the distinction between Conference Funds and Training/Retraining funds. Went through [a handout](#), and spoke about process to request the funds. Application date is April 15th.

5b: Ben Stefonik talked about [a proposal](#) prepared by the COOL committee to review the J1 and J2 for hybrid instruction. FA talked about their interest in looking at all of the faculty evaluation tools and processes in the next contract negotiations, which need to be completed by June 2022, so senate input is critical right now. There was other discussion about transition to a post COVID world, and what instruction is going to look like, and what faculty evaluation will need to consider. Some discussion also about what is different between classroom and online instruction? Comments about J1 and J2 for the evaluation of faculty in our virtual synchronous environment vs. asynchronous vs. hybrid (both). FA will be forming a workgroup and looking for appointments from both De Anza and Foothill senates soon.

5c: The Senate Officers shared the [ASCCC Resolutions Packet](#), to be voted on at the spring plenary meetings on April 17th.

6. There was no further discussion and the joint meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.