



05/10/2021

Dear President Nguyen,

On April 12, 2021, Foothill's Academic Senate sent you an open [letter](#) in response to the Collegiality in Action visit and their concerns regarding participatory governance.

The letter concludes with 9 specific requests. The seventh of these requests is the following:

*Provide resources for, and collaborate with the Academic Senate, Classified Senate and ASFC, in the convening of a "Shared Governance Task Force," to be charged with conducting a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of the current governance structure, utilizing the data collected to date from various forums (C&C, Academic Senate, Classified Senate, ASFC, etc.), and to be convened prior to the end of May 2021. We ask that you create a new body to complete this work, and do not charge such an important task to C&C and/or one of the governance councils, which meet only once a month for two hours. This Task Force would be charged with:*

- *Preparing recommendations for needed improvements/fixes.*
- *Facilitating opportunities for college-wide input into these recommendations.*
- *Ensuring approval of all recommendations by all constituency groups: ASFC, Classified Senate, Academic Senate, Admin Council, and the Office of the President.*
- *Implementing the changes and updating the Governance Handbook.*

As Classified Senate President, I received a copy of the letter from Academic Senate. Since the above request involves Classified Senate, I opened a discussion about supporting it with the full Senate. On April 22, 2021, after reading the letter and discussing it, Classified Senate put forward a motion to support the request for a Shared Governance Task Force. The motion was unanimously approved.

While the Classified Senate motion did pass unanimously, the Senators only consented to a vote under the condition that I make it clear in my communication with you and with the college community that Classified Senate did not vote to support the Academic Senate request for a Shared Governance Task Force because it has complaints about how the Community and Communication (C&C) Council has conducted itself. Nothing could be further from the truth. Classified Senate applauds C&C for their work evaluating our governance structures and practices. We are grateful for their efforts.

In conclusion, Classified Senate agrees with the Academic Senate that the task of evaluating governance councils should not belong to C&C. Nor should it be the responsibility of any particular governance council to evaluate the overall governance structure and processes. This work—which is complex, time-consuming, and crucial to our success as a college—should be assigned to a separate, non-governance group as its exclusive charge.