FOOTHILL CLASSIFIED SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, August 22, 2024
1-2:30pm

Name	Position	Attendance
Doreen Finkelstein	President	Present
Vanessa Santillan-Nieto	President-Elect	Absent
Kelaiah Harris	Treasurer	Present
Trizha Loren Aquino	Secretary	Absent
Adiel Velasquez	Past President	Present
Pauline Brown	Senator	Present
Julie Ceballos	Senator	Present
Chris Custer	Senator	Absent
Danmin Deng	Senator	Present
Nicholas Falasco	Senator	Present
Janie Garcia	Senator	Present
Sharon Garcia-Vega	Senator	Present
Yasmine Malboubi	Senator	Absent
Josh Pelletier	Senator	Absent
Nadene Torres	Senator	Present
Phuong Tran	Senator	Present
Mary Vanatta	Senator	Present
Jackie Lauese	Technology Committee Tri-Chair	Present

Flex Day / Opening Day / Town Hall Update

Gave an update on the current status of Flex Day / Opening Day. Returning to workshop format with introductory sessions and a keynote speaker. Workshops will be labeled for their intended audience (faculty, classified, everyone, etc.). There is still an opportunity to submit workshop ideas. The Classified Town Hall is scheduled to take place during the instructional department meetings on Flex Day.

Discussed how the Town Hall should include information about the difference between Classified Senate and the unions. Classified Senate represents classified professionals in college governance, providing the classified voice on committees and college initiatives. We are distinct from the unions in being specific to Foothill (not district-wide). We represent classified professionals from ACE, Teamsters, and confidential employees who are not in a union. We collaborate with ACE and Teamsters but are distinct from them.

Retreat Planning
Retreat is set for Friday, Oct. 25 at the Garden House at Shoup Park. Discussed activities: equity presentation, acronym trivia game, "get your questions answered" activity.

Discussed paying an external vendor for a scavenger hunt activity that could potentially be customized. Decided against it due to cost and lack of prior experience with the vendor's other scavenger hunts.

13-55 Project
Discussed a potential 13-55 project of gathering instances where Foothill processes, policies, and procedures result in inequities for our students and highlighting them for the college. One senator voiced concerns about the possibility of doing all this work and not having the college take action on it. Our work in general is not acknowledged or appreciated. Is there a way to take on a smaller project first? Another senator agreed that classified are at the bottom of a 3-tier system at the college (classified, faculty, administrators). If we build this project and the college doesn't follow through with it, it will lower morale. A classified professional wondered how we build this into something that is more lasting, such as a way to assess whether a process is equitable. Some of the things classified see are different from what faculty and administrators see, so this would be a rubric from our perspective. A senator pointed out that classified professionals are a more diverse group than faculty or administrators.

Decision: If we take this on, it can't just be an exercise. We have to know that the college is committed to taking action on our recommendations.

Onboarding/mentoring
Discussed mentoring for new classified professionals: pairing people with a mentor, having volunteers who are willing to be a "go to expert" on specific topics. One senator talked about how you don't know what you don't know, and mentioned that it took a long time before she figured out there is a separate website for the district, and some things are on the district's website and some things are on Foothill's website. Another senator talked about how useful it was to just meet people so you know who to ask or just which department to go to if you have a question. A quarterly new employee orientation would be good.