

Foothill Academic Senate Resolution on Program Change/Discontinuance

Whereas, The unprecedented budget crisis in California has led legislators to cut funds for education across California, and in response Foothill-De Anza district leaders have directed Foothill College to cut our operating budget by 20%;

Whereas, As a college community we now must decide which students we will no longer serve, which faculty positions to eliminate, and which educational programs to modify or, if necessary, discontinue;

Whereas, Title 5 § 53200 (d) specifies that: "Consult collegially" means that the district governing board shall develop policies on academic and professional matters through either or both of the following methods, according to its own discretion:

(1) relying primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senate; or
(2) agreeing that the district governing board, or such representatives as it may designate, and the representatives of the academic senate shall have the obligation to reach mutual agreement by written resolution, regulation, or policy of the governing board effectuating such recommendations" in areas of Title 5 § 53200 (c), including education program development, curriculum, program review, and other academic areas; and

Whereas, In the April 15, 2011, CTIS division meeting, the administration unilaterally announced plans for suspension and/or discontinuance of several programs in that division without consultation with or involvement by the Academic Senate;

Resolved, That the Foothill College Academic Senate direct the college administration to affirm the essential role of the Academic Senate in matters concerning educational programs;

Resolved, That the Foothill College Academic Senate direct the college administration to collaborate with the Academic Senate in the development of any plans it has or is making to in any way modify any of the educational program offerings of the college; and

Resolved, That the Foothill College Academic Senate work collaboratively with the administrations of both the college and the district, along with the De Anza Academic Senate and the Faculty Association, to establish a plan of program discontinuance to be used going forward in discussions of any discontinuance of educational programs.