

Foothill Classified Senate Resolution To Settle Academic Calendar Scheduling Conflicts With Jewish Holidays

**WHEREAS**, Foothill College’s purpose is to “provide access and educational opportunity for all with innovation and distinction”<sup>1</sup> and;

**WHEREAS**, Foothill-De Anza Community College District’s mission is “...student success...driven by an equity agenda and guided by core values of excellence, inclusion and sustainability”<sup>2</sup> and;

**WHEREAS**, the Bay Area is home to the fourth largest Jewish population in the country<sup>3</sup> and;

**WHEREAS**, Foothill College and the Foothill-De Anza Community College District educates Jewish students and employs Jewish faculty and staff, and;

**WHEREAS**, Fall 2021’s district and college flex days were scheduled during Yom Kippur, and the first day of instruction for the Fall 2022 term is scheduled during Rosh Hashanah and;

**WHEREAS**, the scheduling of critical college and districtwide dates that Jewish students, classified professionals and faculty may not be able to participate in detracts from the district and the college’s missions and purpose statements about educational access and inclusion and;

**WHEREAS**, these scheduling conflicts create internal conflict for students, having to choose to observe their faith or risk being dropped from their classes, not receiving an add code, or missing important information on the first day;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Foothill College Classified Senate supports efforts by the district’s Jewish community to ask for a revision of the 2022-2023 academic calendar, and future academic calendars, so that college and districtwide flex days, as well as the first day of instruction for a term does not conflict with recognized Jewish holidays;

**RESOLVED**, that if the first day of instruction cannot be moved, Classified Senate urges the district and the college to issue a written and published apology to the Jewish community for this scheduling conflict, and to promote actions for mitigating the effects of this scheduling conflict on students, faculty, and classified professionals who wish to observe the holiday.

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<sup>1</sup> Noted under “Our Purpose” at <https://foothill.edu/president/mission.html>

<sup>2</sup> Noted under “Mission” at [https://www.fhda.edu/\\_about-us/index.html](https://www.fhda.edu/_about-us/index.html)

<sup>3</sup> Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, A Portrait of Bay Area Jewish Life And Communities. February 2021.

[https://jewishfed.org/sites/default/files/An\\_Integrative\\_Report\\_from\\_the\\_Bay\\_Area\\_Jewish\\_Community\\_Study.pdf](https://jewishfed.org/sites/default/files/An_Integrative_Report_from_the_Bay_Area_Jewish_Community_Study.pdf)

**RESOLVED**, that Classified Senate declares its full support for members of the campus community who are affected by this scheduling conflict and affirms its commitment to promoting an environment that is inclusive to religious minorities.

**RESOLVED**, that Classified Senate commits to working with the district to understand how and why these scheduling conflicts continue to happen, and to institute measures that will ensure that future first days of instruction and other important dates in the academic calendar do not conflict with major cultural or religious holidays.

**RESOLVED**, that the Classified Senate of Foothill College will not schedule meetings or activities that would interfere with the observance of major cultural and religious holidays.

