

Academic Senate Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Voltaire Villanueva at 2:00 p.m. in the Krause Center for Innovation (4006) and via Zoom.

Roll Call

Secretary Robert Cormia conducted the roll call. Attendance was noted, and a quorum was confirmed. (See attendance below)

Adoption of Agenda

Ben Kaupp motioned to adopt the agenda, with Sara Cooper seconding. The motion was carried by consensus.

Public Comments

Tracee Cunningham presented a letter from the Counseling Department expressing concerns over the reduction of funding for faculty tutors in STEM, writing, and student success centers. She emphasized the significant impact such reductions would have on vulnerable students and cited California's AB 1705 mandate requiring completion of math and English requirements within one year. Voltaire Villanueva acknowledged the concerns and mentioned an upcoming town hall to address the issue.

Lydia Daniel highlighted an opportunity to host a non-credit summit on campus to educate faculty about non-credit course options. Meanwhile, Lynette Vega inquired about the protocol for initiating a vote of no confidence against a dean, seeking clarification on how such a process could be formalized.

Approval of Minutes

Discussion arose regarding the November 4, 2024, meeting minutes. Sara Cooper commented that the summary lacked sufficient detail and failed to attribute statements to specific senators. Robert Cormia concurred, and Sara moved to produce revised, detailed minutes for review the following week. Julie Jenkins seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Consent Calendar

Additions to the consent calendar included appointing Sally Baldwin to the Teaching with Technology Committee for HSH and a call for volunteers for the OER stipend workgroup. The calendar also covered program review readers and ASCCC common course numbering

initiatives. Eric Reed motioned to approve the consent calendar, with Patrick Morriss seconding. The motion was adopted without opposition.

ASFC President Updates

ASFC President Paulo Verzosa provided updates on student activities, noting a resurgence of student engagement on campus. He highlighted the limited funding available for clubs, which currently averages \$200 per club, and proposed increasing the student body fee by \$5 per quarter. Such a change could generate an additional \$65,000 annually to better support student activities. He also advocated for the creation of a student outreach office to enhance communication and better understand student needs.

Regular Business

Student Academic Support and Resources Review

Hilda Fernandez addressed the challenges faced by undocumented students, particularly in light of growing anxiety over potential changes under the incoming administration. She stressed the need for campus-wide support to create a sense of security for affected students. Paulo Verzosa emphasized the importance of fostering community connections and gathering input to identify student needs more effectively. Lynette Vega shared a 2016 initiative in Pescadero that informed undocumented students of their rights and suggested a similar approach could be beneficial. Doreen Finkelstein proposed additional classified staff resources to bolster support services.

Reimagining Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Ben Kaupp led a discussion on reimagining SLO assessment, presenting a framework that included evaluation, professional development, and continuous improvement. He underscored the importance of faculty ownership of SLOs and suggested collaborative “pods” or asynchronous communication to facilitate ongoing dialogue. Alison Meezan inquired whether additional tasks were being introduced or if existing duties were being streamlined.

Concerns were raised about the transparency and accountability of public-facing SLO processes, with Sara Cooper cautioning against administrative misuse. Voltaire agreed to investigate whether public-facing SLO reflection was mandated. Ben noted De Anza’s success in accreditation through a public-facing SLO process but acknowledged the challenges involved in implementing such a system at Foothill.

Patrick Morriss emphasized that institutional support is crucial to the success of SLO initiatives. He motioned to establish an ad hoc workgroup to develop a comprehensive SLO framework involving faculty, students, and administrators. The motion passed

unanimously. Voltaire committed to facilitating the formation of the workgroup before the winter break.

Development of Comprehensive AI Guidelines

Alison Meezan presented an overview of AI usage guidelines, incorporating input from Student Affairs. She emphasized the need for clear communication about permissible AI use in assignments and urged senators to gather feedback from constituents.

Concerns were raised about potential biases in AI tools and their environmental impact. Ulysses Acevedo advocated for promoting “linguistic justice” by fostering authentic student voices. Patrick Morriss highlighted historical biases embedded in AI models, urging careful implementation of AI policies. Alison noted that De Anza’s faculty preferred a collaborative approach with Foothill to ensure alignment on administrative procedures. The discussion was tabled for further review in subsequent meetings.

Program Viability, Revitalization, and Discontinuance (PVRD)

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

Academic Senate Scholarships

Robert Cormia provided an update on the Academic Senate’s financial balance of \$10,000, suggesting that the Senate could afford to spend down the balance to \$5,000 while maintaining \$4,500 in annual scholarship funding. The matter was scheduled for further discussion and action at the December 2 meeting.

Standing Items

Officer and Committee Reports

- **MIPC Board Policy:** Patrick Morriss discussed re-enrollment accommodations for military students returning from active duty.
- **STEM Center:** Sara Cooper highlighted the need for sustainable funding to support peer tutoring programs, noting reliance on one-time COVID block grants.
- **Curriculum Committee:** Ben Kaupp announced an upcoming meeting focused on curriculum updates.
- **Teaching with Technology:** Alison Meezan provided an update on committee activities.

Announcements

Hilda Fernandez raised concerns about the challenges faced by undocumented students, urging faculty to continue advocating for marginalized populations. Destiny Rivera announced an upcoming citation workshop for students.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. The next and final meeting of the quarter is scheduled for December 2, 2024.

Attendance: Members attended both in person (Room 4006) and via Zoom.

Role	Name	Attendance
Dean of Equity	Ajani Byrd	Absent
Faculty Chair of Teaching with Technology	Allison Meezan	4006
DRC/VRC	Ana Maravilla	4006
Vice President of Curriculum	Ben Kaupp	4006
Professional Development Coordinator	Carolyn Holcroft	4006
LRC	Destiny Rivera	4006
KIN	Don Mac Neil	Zoom
Classified Senate Rep	Doreen Finkelstein	4006
FAC	Eric Kuehnl	4006
LRC	Eric Reed	4006
Counseling	Fatima Jinnah	Zoom
FAC	Hilary Gomes	Zoom
LA	Hilda Fernandez	Zoom
FA Rep	Jordana Griffiths	Zoom
BSS	Julie Jenkins	4006
KIN	Katy Ripp	Zoom
HSH	Lydia Daniel	Zoom
24-26 Part Time Faculty Rep	Lynette Vega	4006
23-25 Part Time Faculty Rep	Michael Chang	4006
BSS	Mona Rawal	4006
Apprenticeship	Nate Vennarucci	4006
Executive Vice President	Patrick Morriss	4006
ASFC Rep	Paulo Verzosa	4006
STEM	Rachel Mudge	4006
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert Cormia	4006

STEM	Sara Cooper	4006
President's Cabinet	Stacy Gleixner	4006
Counseling	Tracee Cunningham	4006
LA	Ulysses Acevedo	4006
President	Voltaire Villanueva	4006

DRAFT