Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2025

The Academic Senate of Foothill College convened its meeting on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 2:02 p.m. The session was held in the Krause Center for Innovation (Room 4006) and via Zoom.

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Voltaire Villanueva called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., welcoming attendees to the second meeting of the winter quarter. Secretary Robert Cormia conducted the roll call, confirming a quorum. Villanueva acknowledged those joining in person and remotely, emphasizing the Senate's commitment to participation in its hybrid format.

Adoption of the Agenda

Villanueva announced a change to the agenda: the scheduled discussion on **Foothill Institutional Values** would be deferred. Instead, the topic of **Disability Resource Center Referrals** will be moved into its place.

- **Motion**: Ben Kaupp moved to adopt the amended agenda.
- **Second**: Ana Maravilla seconded the motion.
  With no objections, the agenda was adopted by consensus.

Public Comment

Pauline Brown, representing the BIPOC Resource Center, delivered a presentation supporting undocumented students and preparing for potential immigration enforcement scenarios. She outlined a protocol for faculty and staff to follow in the event of an ICE raid:

- **ICE Protocols**: Brown emphasized that faculty should immediately notify the College President if ICE agents are on campus and ensure that affected students are directed to designated "safe" spaces. She distributed printed guidelines to assist faculty in navigating such situations.
- **Workshops and Resources**: A "Know Your Rights" workshop was scheduled for February 6, 2025, with certain sessions deliberately not recorded to protect participant identities. Brown announced that red folders containing critical

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documents would be distributed to deans, with instructions to disseminate them as needed.

- **Key Message**: Brown urged attendees to focus on empowerment, using the phrase "Spread power, not panic." She highlighted the importance of maintaining a supportive environment for students navigating these challenges.

Faculty members thanked Brown for her work, with David Marasco suggesting future workshops include role-playing exercises to better prepare staff for real-world scenarios. Villanueva emphasized that the Senate stood in solidarity with undocumented students.

Approval of the January 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The draft minutes from January 13 were reviewed, with two notable revisions discussed:

1. **Correction**: The term "Emoja" was corrected to "Umoja."
2. **AI and Privacy Concerns**: Patrick Morriss raised a question about AI tools potentially identifying individuals via voiceprints. He emphasized the need for the Senate to examine the privacy implications of such technology.

- **Motion**: Eric Kuehnl motioned to approve the minutes as amended.
- **Second**: Kerri Ryer seconded the motion.
  The amended minutes were approved by consensus, with Ana Maravilla abstaining.

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Villanueva introduced the consent calendar, which included the following updates:

- **Appointments**:
    - Amber LaPiana was appointed to the Academic Senate Executive Committee.
    - Miriam Ramirez was confirmed as a representative for the DRC/VRC.
- **Student Grievance and Conduct**: Updates were shared regarding ongoing committee work in these areas.

During the discussion, Rachel Mudge requested clarification on the structure and scope of newly formed committees. Villanueva provided additional context about committee responsibilities and timelines.

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- **Motion**: Ben Kaupp moved to approve the consent calendar.
- **Second**: Eric Reed seconded.
  The consent calendar was approved by consensus.

ASFC President Updates

ASFC President Paulo Verzosa provided a detailed update on current student government initiatives, beginning with a review of upcoming events:

- **Winter Ball**: A 70s disco-themed event was planned, featuring a DJ, free food, and open invitations to faculty and staff. Verzosa highlighted the importance of fostering community through such gatherings.
- **Heritage Month Celebrations**: February's Black History Month events were discussed, with Verzosa encouraging all faculty to support and attend.
- **Budgeting for ASFC**: The ASFC was exploring an increase in student body fees, proposing a range of $12–$15 per quarter to meet rising costs. Verzosa emphasized that part of this funding could be allocated to compensate student senators, ensuring equitable participation in governance activities.

Faculty, including David Marasco, expressed support for these initiatives, suggesting the Office of Equity as a potential funding partner. Verzosa encouraged Senate members to involve students in policy discussions, noting the importance of their perspectives.

Disability Resource Referrals

The Senate engaged in a thoughtful discussion about improving resource accessibility for students experiencing crises, particularly those related to housing and mental health:

- **Identified Challenges**: Faculty noted inconsistent communication between departments created barriers to effective referrals.
- **Proposed Solutions**:
  - Ben Kaupp suggested creating a centralized resource hub, such as a campus wiki, to consolidate referral information.
  - Stacy Gleixner proposed incorporating these resources into the Simple Syllabus platform for easy access by faculty and students.

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- Patrick Morriss highlighted the importance of addressing equity concerns related to help-seeking behavior, emphasizing the role of personal networks in bridging gaps.

Ana Maravilla shared examples of support services offered by the Disability Resource Center, and increased faculty awareness could significantly enhance student outcomes.

Accreditation Update

Institutional Researcher and Accreditation Liaison Officer **Elaine Kuo** provided an update on Foothill College's accreditation status, following the recent ACCJC review. She shared that the College's accreditation was reaffirmed for 18 months, with a compliance requirement focused on improving the **documentation of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**.

Compliance Requirements and Timeline:

- **Focus on Processes**: Kuo emphasized that the ACCJC is primarily concerned with ensuring that the College demonstrates a clear, repeatable process for reviewing and aligning SLOs with Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs).
- **Next Steps**:
    - A follow-up report is due by **March 21, 2026**, detailing progress toward compliance. We'll need to get a draft into our governance process by December 2025.
    - An ACCJC site visit will follow later in the year to evaluate these efforts.

Faculty Engagement and Dialogue:

Kuo highlighted the importance of transparency and faculty involvement in meeting compliance requirements, emphasizing that documenting the work already being done is a key priority.

- **SLO Alignment**: Faculty members, including **Ben Kaupp** and **Nate Vennarucci**, raised questions about how apprenticeship programs and other specialized courses would align their outcomes with broader program goals. Kuo confirmed that all courses, regardless of their format, must demonstrate clear alignment with both program and institutional learning objectives.

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- **Historical Gaps**: Acknowledging that the pandemic disrupted prior efforts, Kuo reassured attendees that the focus now is on building sustainable processes for addressing SLOs, moving forward, and not on perfection.

President Villanueva thanked Kuo for her leadership in guiding the College through this process and encouraged faculty to engage with the SLO Workgroup as the March deadline approaches.

SLO Workgroup Update

President Villanueva shared progress on the SLO Workgroup, emphasizing that while the College has a longstanding history of SLO work, documentation efforts paused during the pandemic. The workgroup is now focused on re-establishing a sustainable cycle for assessment and reporting.

Teaching with Technology Committee Update

Committee Chair **Allison Lenkeit Meezan** began her presentation by outlining the evolution of the Teaching with Technology Committee, emphasizing its new, broader mission. Previously known as the COOL Committee, its primary focus was on online learning. The updated committee structure aims to integrate **equity-minded pedagogy** with the innovative use of technology, creating a more holistic approach to teaching and learning.

Meezan provided an overview of the committee's revised **mission and goals**, which include:

- **Expanding Faculty Support**: The committee is actively working to provide more targeted professional development opportunities for faculty, particularly around tools that enhance accessibility and promote student engagement.
- **Integrating Technology with Equity Goals**: Meezan emphasized the importance of ensuring that technology adoption aligns with the College's broader equity commitments. She stated, "Technology must not just enable teaching but also dismantle barriers to learning." This includes making Canvas courses more accessible and user-friendly for students of all backgrounds.

The presentation included highlights from recent faculty feedback on technology use:

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- **Challenges with Canvas and Other Tools**: Several faculty noted that while tools like Canvas are effective, they often require substantial setup time. Meezan acknowledged these concerns and shared that the committee is exploring ways to standardize templates and provide more robust onboarding for new tools.
- **Future Opportunities**: Meezan mentioned the potential for expanding the committee's collaboration with other groups, such as the Disability Resource Center, to ensure that technology solutions are inclusive.

In the discussion that followed, **Kerri Ryer** asked about plans to provide hands-on workshops for faculty, particularly on integrating accessibility tools directly into their courses. Meezan responded that the committee is prioritizing such workshops in the upcoming quarter, with a focus on **real-time troubleshooting** and peer-sharing sessions.

Patrick Morriss raised the question of whether the committee is considering the environmental impact of technology use, including the energy demands of server-based tools. Meezan noted this as an important consideration and suggested that the College's sustainability goals could be integrated into the committee's long-term planning.

Meezan concluded her report by inviting faculty to participate in upcoming committee meetings, emphasizing that their input is crucial to shaping the College's approach to technology. She also highlighted the importance of maintaining an iterative, collaborative process that adapts to the evolving needs of both faculty and students.

Faculty Association Executive Council Update

Rachel Mudge provided an update on Faculty Association activities:

- **Support for Undocumented Students**: Training sessions were being planned to assist faculty in better supporting undocumented students.
- **Compensation Challenges**: Mudge highlighted concerns about declining pay competitiveness and its impact on recruitment. David Marasco proposed reforms to prioritize equitable opportunities for part-time faculty.
- **Windfall provision**: There was a brief mention of the elimination of the Social Security – public pension windfall provision. Cormia commented that this is significant for individuals who have worked in the private sector prior to employment in the public sector, with significant contributions to Social Security.

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Election Committee Formation

Villanueva announced the formation of an Election Committee, per Senate Constitution guidelines, to oversee nominations and elections. The committee will manage candidate bios and logistical planning. Cormia shared that faculty need not decide today if they would serve on the election committee, but to consider and get back to us if they do.

Standing Items

- **Curriculum Committee**: Vice President of Curriculum Ben Kaupp reported progress on revising local GE patterns and streamlining the course approval process.
- **SLO Workgroup**: Updates highlighted ongoing efforts to meet ACCJC compliance requirements.

Announcements

- **ASCCC OER Liaison**: Destiny Rivera encouraged faculty to explore Open Educational Resources Initiative opportunities and apply for stipend-based leadership roles.
- **Chief Acosta's Statement**: Chief Daniel Acosta reaffirmed the district's commitment to protecting undocumented students, emphasizing that FHDA police do not collaborate with ICE.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. The next Academic Senate meeting is scheduled for **February 10, 2025**.

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Attendance January 27th, 2025

Nate Vennarucci	Apprenticeship	Online
Stephen Schnell	Apprenticeship	absent
Mona Rawal	BSS	4006
Kerri Ryer	BSS	4006
Fatima Jinnah	Counselling	Online
Tracee Cunningham	Counselling	absent
Ana Maravilla	DRC/VRC	4006
Eric Kuehnl	FAC	4006
Hilary Gomes	FAC	Online
Lydia Daniel	HSH	absent
Brenda Hanning	HSH	absent
Katy Ripp	KIN	Online (on campus)
Rita O'Laughlin	KIN	4006
Stephanie Chan	LA	4006
Ulysses Acevedo	LA	4006
Eric Reed	LRC	4006
Destiny Rivera	LRC	4006
Rachel Mudge	STEM	4006
Ryan Pugh	STEM	4006
Julie Jenkins	FA Rep	absent
Allison Lenkeit Meezan	Teaching and Learning	4006
Michael Chang	23-25 PT Rep	4006
Lynnette Vega	24-26 PT Rep	4006
Paulo Verzosa	ASFC Rep	4006
Doreen Finkelstein	Classified Senate Rep	4006
Carolyn Holcroft	Prof Dev Coordinator	4006
Evan Gilstrap	Faculty other roles	4006
Ajani Byrd	Dean of Equity	absent
Stacy Gleixner	President's cabinet	4006
Robert Cormia	Secretary-Treasurer	4006
Patrick Morriss	Executive VP	4006
Ben Kaupp	VP of Curriculum	4006
Voltaire Villanueva	President	4006
David Marasco	Senator Emeritus	4006
Pauline Brown	BIPOC Center	4006

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