

Foothill College Academic Senate

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 10, 2025

Time: 2:03 – 3:26 p.m.

Location: Krause Center for Innovation (4006) & Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **2:03 p.m.** by **Academic Senate President Voltaire Villanueva**.

Villanueva welcomed attendees and acknowledged the **compressed timeline** of today's meeting due to other scheduled events on campus.

2. Roll Call

Secretary/Treasurer Robert Cormia conducted roll call. A **quorum was established**.

Meeting attendance in-person and on Zoom can be found at the end of the minutes.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

- **Presenter:** Villanueva
- **Motion:** **Stephanie Chan**
- **Second:** **Rachel Mudge**
- **Outcome:** Approved by consensus

4. Public Comment

- **Fatima Jinnah** announced that the **Foothill-De Anza Faculty Association's Political Action Committee (FA PAC)** is seeking **Foothill faculty mentors** for new faculty members. **Fatima Jinnah** will send details to **Cormia** regarding how interested faculty can participate.
 - No additional public comments were made.
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5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (February 28, 2025 – v2)

- **Presenter:** Villanueva

- **Motion to approve: Evan Gilstrap**
- **Second: Michael Chang**
- **Outcome:** Approved by consensus

Discussion:

- **Amber La Piana** provided additional comments and amendments to the minutes which clarified her report of ASCCC Academic Academy to the senate regarding artificial intelligence.
 - **Correction made: Ben Stefonik's name was updated for accuracy.**
 - **David Marasco** reiterated his prior concerns regarding the **removal of lock boxes** from classroom doors, emphasizing the **importance of faculty awareness on security changes.**
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6. Consent Calendar

- **Motion: Allison Lenkeit Meezan**
- **Second: Paulo Verzosa**
- **Outcome:** Approved by consensus

Discussion:

- **Ben Kaupp** requested faculty **support on the Housing Committee**, stating that he is currently **overextended** and would appreciate assistance.
 - **Evan Gilstrap** updated the Senate on the **Course Numbering Project**, which is progressing in **three phases**. He emphasized the **need for faculty participation in workgroups**, noting that **nominations for committee members are due by April 15, 2025.**
 - **Voltaire Villanueva** called for faculty volunteers for the **Commencement Committee**, which will work with **Catalina Rodriguez in Student Services** to assist with **graduation messaging and logistics.** **Tracee Cunningham** shared her previous experience on working in the committee. A comment was made to provide a canopy for shade if the event were to occur in the morning.
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7. ASFC Updates

Presenter: Paulo Verzosa (ASFC President)

ASFC President **Paulo Verzosa** provided updates on **student government elections, campus safety, fitness center access, and student funding concerns**. He emphasized the importance of **collaborating with faculty** to address ongoing student issues.

1. Student Government Elections

Verzosa reminded faculty that **ASFC elections** for student leadership positions will take place next quarter. He encouraged faculty to **support student engagement** in governance, particularly as students **navigate key decisions about campus funding and services**.

2. Fitness Center Access & Student Awareness

Verzosa identified the **lack of awareness and accessibility of the Foothill College Fitness Center** as an ongoing frustration for students.

- A **recent survey of 300 students** revealed that **two-thirds were unaware** the fitness center even existed.
- Some students assumed it was **only for athletics teams** or required **separate enrollment beyond class fees**.

ASFC is advocating for **expanded hours and better communication** to ensure that students see the fitness center as **a resource for everyone, not just those in PHED courses**.

Verzosa reaffirmed that ASFC will continue **pushing for sustainable solutions** to ensure students have **fair access to campus wellness resources**.

3. Campus Safety & Title IX Awareness

Verzosa raised **student concerns about nighttime campus safety**, particularly around **poor lighting and limited security presence** near parking lots.

- ASFC is exploring **student escort (safety) services** in partnership with **campus security** to help students feel safer after evening classes.
- He also stressed the importance of **keeping Title IX resource materials visible**, noting that some posters with **student rights and reporting information** had been removed or damaged.

4. Student Finance & Potential Fee Increase

Verzosa explained that **ASFC's Owl Card revenue** has not been enough to **sustain student services and programming**.

- ASFC is considering a **\$5 increase in student body fees** to fund **student leadership programs, mental health initiatives, and campus-wide events**.
- While acknowledging that **fee increases can be a concern**, he emphasized that **many ASFC programs depend on stable funding**.

5. Women's History Month & Mental Health Events

Verzosa concluded by highlighting ASFC-sponsored events, including:

- **Women's History Month programming**, ending this week with a **panel discussion on women in STEM**.
- The **"Healthy You" event**, which will promote **mental health awareness and counseling resources**.

He thanked faculty for their **ongoing support of student-led initiatives** and encouraged further **collaboration to improve campus life**.

Voltaire commented that our escort service should perhaps be advertised as an escort program.

8. Teaching with Technology Committee Update

Presenter: Allison Lenkeit Meezan (Committee Chair)

Allison Lenkeit Meezan provided an update on the **Teaching with Technology Committee's revised Mission & Vision Statement**, emphasizing the importance of **aligning technology use with equity-minded pedagogy** and **faculty-driven innovation in online education**.

Meezan explained that the revision process had been **collaborative**, incorporating **faculty feedback, accessibility considerations, and emerging best practices** in digital learning. The goal was to create a **clear framework** that supports **high-quality, inclusive, and innovative online instruction** at Foothill.

Key Updates to the Mission & Vision Statement:

- A stronger **commitment to equity-focused pedagogy** in online and hybrid courses.
- Greater emphasis on **technology as a tool for engagement, not just content delivery**.

- Faculty-driven recommendations for **best practices in online assessment and student interaction**.

Faculty Discussion & Feedback:

- **Julie Jenkins** voiced strong support for the revisions, stating that they **better reflect the realities of modern teaching** and faculty experiences with **remote and hybrid learning environments**.
- **Michael Chang** asked whether there were plans to **assess the effectiveness** of these changes once implemented. Meezan confirmed that **ongoing faculty surveys and feedback loops** would be used to **measure impact and refine strategies as needed**.
- **Patrick Morriss** highlighted the need for **clearer faculty training pathways** to ensure **new and adjunct instructors feel confident using digital tools**.

Approval of the Revised Mission & Vision Statement:

- **Motion:** Julie Jenkins
- **Second:** Michael Chang
- **Outcome:** Approved by consensus

Meezan thanked the Senate for their **thoughtful input and continued support**, noting that **Foothill is positioned to be a leader in equitable and innovative online education**.

9. Academic Senate Scholarships

Presenter: Robert Cormia (Secretary/Treasurer)

Cormia provided an update on the **Academic Senate's scholarship fund**, reviewing the current **financial standing** and proposed allocations for the upcoming award cycle. He emphasized the Senate's **ongoing commitment to supporting students through direct financial assistance**, particularly those **facing barriers to completing their education**.

Current Financial Standing & Previous Contributions:

Cormia reported that the Senate's **current bank balance stands at \$7,575.33**. He reminded the Senate that in **October 2024**, the Senate contributed **\$5,000 to the Foothill-De Anza Foundation** as part of a **matching donation**.

This past contribution has already helped **expand scholarship opportunities**, and the Senate now has the opportunity to **provide additional funding directly to students**.

Proposed Scholarship Allocations:

Cormia presented the proposed **\$4,500 donation for student scholarships**, which would fund:

- **Six \$750 scholarships**, distributed as follows:
 - **Two for first-generation college students**
 - **Two for career-focused students**
 - **Two for students transferring to four-year institutions**

He noted that these categories were selected to **maximize impact across different student populations** and ensure that funding reaches **students with clear academic and professional goals**.

Faculty Discussion & Feedback:

- **Amber La Piana** asked whether these amounts aligned with previous years' distributions. Cormia confirmed that they were **consistent with past scholarships**, and that **adjustments could be considered in future funding cycles**.
- **Patrick Morriss** emphasized the importance of keeping the Senate's **scholarship contributions sustainable**, suggesting that the Senate continue reviewing the **long-term balance of donations and reserves**.
- **Stephanie Chan** voiced strong support, stating that **even small scholarships can make a significant difference for students who are on the edge financially**.

Approval of the Scholarship Funding:

- **Motion:** Allison Lenkeit Meezan
- **Second:** Rachel Mudge
- **Outcome:** Approved by consensus

Cormia closed by thanking the Senate for their **continued support of student success initiatives**, reaffirming that **scholarships remain a direct and meaningful way to assist students in reaching their academic and career goals**. He will hand deliver a check to FHDA Foundation today.

10. Department of Education's Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) on DEI Initiatives

Presenter: Ajani Byrd (Dean of Equity & Inclusion)

Byrd provided an **analysis of the Department of Education's February 14, 2025, Dear Colleague Letter (DCL)**, which addresses **equity-related policies in higher education** following the **Supreme Court ruling in SFFA v. Harvard**.

Key Concerns & Analysis

- **DEI is being conflated with race-based policies**, despite its broader impact on **all students**.
- Byrd emphasized that **executive orders are not laws**, and the **current administration's use of EOs may be legally challenged**.
- The **Foothill College Office of Equity is not changing its student-facing efforts** and will continue **supporting equity-based initiatives**.

Next Steps

- **The Chancellor will hold a town hall next week on March 17** to discuss **legal implications** and Foothill's **commitment to equity**.
- **Villanueva & Morriss** attended a webinar where it was stated that **existing DEI programs remain compliant** but that **new DEI initiatives may receive federal scrutiny**.

11. Reaffirming Support for Undocumented Students

Presenters: Hilda Fernandez, Suzy Quezada, Maritza Sandoval

- **Suzy Quezada** introduced a resolution that would help further **protect undocumented students** throughout the district declaring Foothill De Anza a Sanctuary District.
- **Hilda Fernandez** discussed past **De Anza student advocacy** efforts and the **sanctuary district resolution**.
- **Patrick Morriss** shared that students **place immense trust in faculty** and that faculty must remain **all in** on supporting undocumented students.

- **Voltaire Villanueva** confirmed that a **similar resolution is being reviewed by De Anza College's Academic Senate** and has several contributors from different constituent groups, including a member from the Board of Trustees.
 - Faculty were urged to **discuss this with their divisions** as the resolution will return for a vote on Monday, March 17 for a second read and action.
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12. Elections Update

Presenter: Tracee Cunningham

A single candidate came forward for each of the three open positions this year, running unopposed, and will be elected by acclamation in spring. Each candidate will provide the election committee with a biography / candidate statement, including a picture or likeness.

- **Nominees for the April 7th election:**
 - **Ben Kaupp** – VP of Curriculum
 - **Stephanie Chan** – Executive VP
 - **Michael Chang** – Part-Time Faculty Representative
 - **All three will be voted in by acclamation** at the first meeting in Spring
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13. Open Educational Resources Initiative Update

Presenter: Destiny Rivera

The March OERI newsletter is out and is linked to the agenda. Also, from 12pm to 1pm on Friday, March 14 there will be an OER conversion kickoff via zoom. Check Outlook invitation for details.

14. Officer & Committee Reports

February 21 MIP-C Meeting

- Voltaire reported that hief Acosta presented that the campus police are working to improve safety awareness and accessibility of emergency services
- **Doreen Finkelstein** shared that the current e-printing system creates barriers for students and needed improvement

March 7 MIP-C Meeting

- **Dr. Whalen** presented her feedback from working with the different constituent groups regarding Foothill Colleges Values. There was an extensive discussion around the value of love and grace and the certain connotations those two words may elicit and how they may land on individuals. Further discussion will ensue at a future meeting.
 - Elaine Kuo reported from the Institutional Effectiveness Committee on how the Technology Committee needed clarifying decision-making. It was suggested that a VP overseeing the committee would help facilitate and lead the discussions. This suggestion originated from Patrick Morriss in his capacity as the current faculty tri-chair of the committee.
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15. Announcements

Robert Cormia reflected on the **five-year anniversary** of the initial COVID-19 lockdown, highlighting the **extraordinary efforts** of faculty and staff in transitioning to remote learning, acknowledging Carolyn Holcroft, Allison Meezan, and Lene Whitley-Putz.

Eric Reed reminded faculty about the upcoming **Tutoring Town Hall on March 14th at 1 PM in Room 4501**, urging them to **invite students who may benefit from additional academic support**

Voltaire Villanueva shared that on Friday, March 14 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM there will be a screening of the Counted Out Documentary in Appreciation Hall (1501).

Voltaire also reminded faculty of the reception for our newly tenured faculty at the District Office D700 in one hour (4:30 p.m.) of which we have four faculty in Senate, Mona Rawal, Ben Kaupp, and two other faculty members, Ulysses Acevedo and Lisa Chesser-Nielsen.

16. Adjournment

- **Time: 3:26 p.m.**
- **Next Meeting: March 17, 2025**

Attendance March 10, 2025

Nate Vennarucci	Apprenticeship	Zoom
Stephen Schnell	Apprenticeship	absent
Mona Rawal	BSS	Zoom
Kerri Ryer	BSS	Zoom
Fatima Jinnah	Counselling	Zoom
Tracee Cunningham	Counselling	4006
Ana Maravilla	DRC/VRC	Zoom w/address
Eric Kuehnl	FAC	4006
Hilary Gomes	FAC	4006
Lydia Daniel	HSH	Zoom
Brenda Hanning	HSH	absent
Katy Ripp	KIN	Zoom
Rita O'Laughlin	KIN	Zoom w/address
Stephanie Chan	LA	4006
Amber La Piana	LA	4006
Eric Reed	LRC	Zoom
Destiny Rivera	LRC	4006
Rachel Mudge	STEM	4006
Ryan Pugh	STEM	4006
Julie Jenkins	FA Rep	4006
Allison Lenkeit Meezan	Teaching and Learning	4006
Michael Chang	23-25 PT Rep	4006
Lynnette Vega	24-26 PT Rep	Zoom
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	Zoom
Stacy Gleixner	President's cabinet	absent
Robert Cormia	Secretary-Treasurer	4006
Patrick Morriss	Executive VP	4006
Ben Kaupp	VP of Curriculum	Zoom
Voltaire Villanueva	President	4006
Hilda Fernandez	LA guest	4006
Suzy Quezada	LA guest	4006
Maritza Jackson Sandoval	Counselling Guest	Zoom