

Academic Senate Minutes June 15, 2020

Meeting called to order at 2:04 p.m.

Eric Kuehnl (Senate VP/CCC Faculty Co-Chair)  
Robert Cormia (Senate Secretary/Treasurer)  
Isaac Escoto (Senate President)  
Mary Thomas (LIBR)  
Tracee Cunningham (CNSL)  
Voltaire Villanueva (CNSL)  
Kate Jordahl (FA/COMM)  
Robert Hartwell (FA/COMM)  
Sara Cooper (BHS/Faculty Association Liaison)  
Rachelle Campbell (BHS)  
Kathryn Maurer (BSS)  
Maria Dominguez (BSS)  
David McCormick (LA) - absent  
Amber La Piana (LA)  
David Marasco (PSME)  
Matthew Litrus (PSME)  
Mimi Overton (SRC)  
Donna Frankel (Part Time Rep)  
Mary Anne Sunseri (Part Time Rep)  
Rita O'Loughlin (KA/ATHL)  
Dixie Macias (KA/ATHL)  
Carolyn Holcroft (Professional Development Coordinator)  
Kristy Lisle (Cabinet Liaison)  
Abhiraj Muhar (ASFC President)

Guests (Apologies for any name misspellings. There were lots of folks to quickly jot down)

Anthea Ohene-Nyako  
Priya Vasu  
Leticia Delgado  
Jimii Lewis  
Teresa Ong  
John Fox  
Melissa Cervantes  
Jayme Albiiton  
Abhiraj Mujar  
K'Ronna Harmon  
Brielle O'Connor  
Andre Meggerson  
Kimberly Escamilla  
Sam White

Leticia Serna  
Laurie Scolari  
Sydney Wheeler

Adoption of the agenda by consensus. We will put off some of the topics that need attention, for the June 22nd meeting. Item 7a Academic Senate listens will be the major discussion topic today.

Isaac commented that we asked faculty to check in with our students to see how they are doing, as we are all processing a lot; racism, civil unrest, and COVID-19.

In public comment, a question was asked about a new course in humanities African American history. There was a brief discussion about how we could create anti-racist curriculum, Eric will connect with the student to discuss how we might be able to do this.

A number of students spoke about racism and race issues, including personal experiences at Foothill College. Comments about dismantling racism and fostering an antiracist campus. Isaac commented on the great student leadership and their courage speaking up at meetings.

Consent calendar - Need faculty to work on Revenue and Resources, specifically the Measure G study group. Still accepting faculty interest on all four governance councils.

Consent calendar as shown on the agenda was approved by consensus. The minutes from the June 1st meeting were also approved by consensus.

The agenda moved to "Academic Senate Listens" (item 7a). Isaac suggested we be mindful about metacognition, and be mindful of our feelings. It is important to stay engaged, experience discomfort, speak our truth, and accept non-closure.

Student mention of the open letter to senate. Read letter aloud to the body. Students from Umoja felt that liberal studies should include topics that address the history of slavery in this country. Students asserted that the Equity Plan 2.0 should be revised and put into motion. Faculty should have equity training, and make sure that faculty are accessible to their students.

Student commented that he'd been part of conversations with faculty. Also recounted that many faculty wouldn't talk with him at one point in the past. He commented that when he spoke with passion, it was interpreted as anger, while a white student could speak with anger and be considered passionate. Suggestion that faculty diversity training should be a requirement.

Student commented that many students have had to prioritize their education over their morals. Comment that COVID-19 shouldn't be the only thing that we should give leniency to. He commented that faculty should give some recognition to outside trends, like the Black Lives Matter protests. He also mentioned that students have requested that the FHDA College District look at our police funding.

Student talked about being a biracial 2nd year student at Foothill College. She mentioned anti-racism training for faculty. She spoke also about communities in class, and how could a community college not have a community? Foothill has tons of resources. She mentioned that as a trainer, and as a student at Los Altos High School (LAH), she would kneel during games, but shared that Foothill College athletes were told not to kneel during athletic events. She explained the acronym LUV (Listen, Understand, Validating).

Student talked about learning through an intercultural studies program. She asked for more cultural studies, talked about what she has learned through experience at Foothill College. Mention that De Anza College has a number of intercultural studies courses, but Foothill College does not. Comments regarding issues that students have had with the police.

Further discussion centered around the weighting of academic assignments and exams that might force students to prioritize their studies over their morals and civil expression.

Students spoke about issues with police, coaching, and curriculum that didn't support them. Also spoke about faculty who were very "racism conscious", and the importance of listening to peers, students, and being able to learn and grow. Isaac mentioned that students are asking faculty to be as flexible as possible with grading, as students go through everything.

Comment about the importance of this topic, and that students of color should be able to feel at home on this campus. Comment that it is important to lean into fear, and understand the fears that some students have.

At the next Senate retreat, which will be the last meeting in the Academic year, one hour of that meeting will be official business, and one hour will be our traditional spring retreat.

In a resolution being considered, there was an idea about bringing equity into the curriculum, calling out that every class needs to have something related to equity, and antiracism, to meet the standards of the class. Carolyn Holcroft talked about the resolution and the Chancellor's document and the six "asks", and three of the topics related to faculty purview.

Question regarding why not write one big resolution? Why multiple smaller ones? We will need more than one big resolution, to make sure different ideas get attention and not lost in a big resolution. Suggestion that we get feedback from our division faculty so we can work on this very large project. Other faculty suggested we should act on an ethnic studies department. Senate reps to share resolutions with constituents, for action at next week's meeting.

Constitutional amendment for full-vote for part-time faculty

The Senate Executive moved that part-time faculty be given a full vote in all faculty elections as well as Senate Executive. The motion passed, and Robert Cormia will launch the election at 5

p.m. June 15th, and conclude it at 5 p.m. Monday June 22nd. The constitutional amendment will run in two parallel elections, one for full-time faculty, and one for part-time faculty.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Next and final meeting will be Monday June 22nd.