

Shared Governance Task Force

Vision and Agreements

DRAFT August 3, 2021

Vision

We, the Shared Governance Task Force, will believe we have successfully fulfilled our charge if we have:

- Reached consensus among the different constituency groups on a common definition of shared governance at Foothill College
- Outlined a shared governance process that is:
 - Structured, but allows for flexibility necessary to respond to the unforeseen
 - Based on the college's values of openness and transparency
 - Purposeful and authentic, moving beyond checking boxes and formalities
 - Empowering, such that individual participants and constituent groups feel empowered, valued, and are confident that their involvement is making a difference
 - Long-lasting that is not built in response to any particular individuals current at the college
 - **Intentional in reducing barriers to participation among all constituencies, including the preparation and communication of a regular meeting schedule that allows for more robust participation from a greater number of students, classified professionals and faculty, and one that is particularly mindful of students' synchronous classes and finals week**
- Developed materials that facilitate and communicate a clear and common understanding of:
 - The role of each constituent group in shared governance, paying special attention to the role of faculty as outlined in law
 - Shared governance processes, **specialized governance language**, and how individual participants can be effective in their roles representing their respective constituent group
 - Where and how decisions are being made by whom and the underlying reason, including who has the authority to make what decisions
- **Established an onboarding plan that more adequately prepares all council members to serve and fully participate, with a particular focus on ensuring that onboarding/training for students leads to not only full student participation and empowerment, but the means to acquire institutional knowledge and cultural capital that helps students navigate engagement barriers**
- Identified an action plan that outlines what actions are to be taken, by whom, by when, and how that accomplishes the above.
 - We have a common and agreed-upon metric for evaluating the effectiveness of shared governance, and a process for regularly engaging in this evaluation

Agreements

We, the Shared Governance Task Force, agree to:

- Work towards consensus, using majority vote as a last resort
 - If a vote is taken, each constituency group has one vote
 - Silence is not consent; ensure there is space for questioning and dissent
- Ensure all voices are heard and carry equal weight and value
- Have one representative from each constituency group on the Steering Committee
- Confer with our respective constituency group to share the Task Force's progress, gather feedback, and report back to the Task Force.