

FOOTHILL CLASSIFIED SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, October 30, 2025



Link to [Agenda](#)

[No powerpoint slides]

Name	Position	Attendance
Vanessa Santillan-Nieto	President	present
Pauline Brown	President-Elect	present
Sheherazade Arasnia	Treasurer	present
Trizha Loren Aquino	Secretary	present
Doreen Finkelstein	Past President	<i>absent</i>
Adiel Velasquez	Senator	present
Chris Custer	Senator	present
Chris Yang	Senator	present
Danmin Deng	Senator	present
Gera Robredo	Senator	<i>absent</i>
Janie Garcia	Senator	present
Josh Pelletier	Senator	present
Julie Ceballos	Senator	present
Mary Vanatta	Senator	present
Michelle Tham	Senator	present
Nadene Torres	Senator	present
Nannette Regua	Senator	present
Yasmine Malboubi	Senator	present

Other Classified Staff in attendance: Peter Chow, Keleiah Harris, Elena Castaneda, Alex Favela, Julie Brown, Sonia Sanchez Santoyo, Edna Hernandez Amezcua

Other Faculty or Administration in attendance: Laurie Scolari

Other guests in attendance:

Technology Committee Rep Recruitment

Laurie Scolari invited participation from Classified Senate and the rest of our constituency group to join the Technology Committee. The hope is that representatives from Classified Staff can help broaden the perspectives within the committee and bring renewed energy to the group. Membership is open to anyone, and while attendance has historically been small, the goal is to engage individuals interested in reshaping and rethinking how technological decisions are made at Foothill College. The Technology Committee will focus on identifying areas of technological growth, ensuring alignment with district and De Anza College initiatives, and improving communication and interoperability between college systems. Membership will also include representatives from ETS.

The group will meet once per month, with trichairs meeting up to twice monthly. A senate member asked whether the task force's work would focus solely on classroom technology or also on administrative processes; Laurie confirmed that the scope will be balanced across both areas.

Next steps: interested members meeting with Laurie to discuss roles in more detail and determine who will serve as trichair. Interested members include: Janie G, Nannette T (also interested in the trichair position), and Nadene T

The first meeting is planned for November, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for December. More information about the task force can be found at foothill.edu/gov/ttf.

AI Fellows & Campus Access to Gemini/Google AI Certificates/Notebook LM

An AI Interest Form will be distributed to Classified Staff and faculty to gather input on their experiences with AI, interpretations of its use, and current usage levels. The goal is to form a well-rounded group of AI fellows who bring diverse perspectives and relationships with AI, ensuring a holistic approach to college-wide discussions. The form is expected to be released by Monday, after which the process will move into the appointment phase. The AI Fellows group currently has two seats dedicated to members of Classified Staff, though there is the option to request additional seats, as faculty currently have six. A draft version of the form was shared at the last MIP-C meeting [[link to form here](#)], and Zach Cembellin is serving as the lead for this group. A senate member noted that Zach is seeking two classified supervisors or administrators to participate, and Josh will be joining the administrative/supervisory subgroup. Another senate member emphasized the importance of including Classified Staff to ensure the conversation is not overly instructional in focus. Committee members are encouraged to provide updates and feedback at future Classified Senate meetings.

At the previous MIP-C meeting, information was shared about Google AI Certificates, which are being offered for free. The college is currently considering whether to pilot the program, but no decisions have been made yet regarding how the pilot will be implemented or which constituency groups will have initial access. Senate members raised concerns about data privacy and assurances, noting that this question was brought up at MIP-C but has not yet been answered. Members emphasized the need for caution with any rollout until there is more clarity about data use and privacy protections. The administration aims to reach a consensus by the winter quarter before moving forward.

Classified Fall Retreat Debrief & Next Steps

The group discussed plans to create more opportunities to gather throughout the year and reflected on experiences from the recent retreat.

Question: How did you feel at the retreat if you attended?

Several attendees shared positive impressions. A senate member praised the retreat's structure, balance of activities, and the option to be outdoors. Another senate member echoed this, noting the AI activity was thought-provoking even though she couldn't attend everything, and she appreciated the fun, community-focused environment. Another senate member appreciated the balance of session options and said she didn't experience FOMO ("fear of missing out") because the schedule was well designed, though she found the AI facilitator's background noise distracting. A senate member agreed with previous comments, adding that while the AI workshop was engaging, the facilitator's background noise was a distraction — but the food was excellent.

Question: When did you feel the most disengaged during the retreat?

When asked about moments of disengagement, a senate member noted there were times she felt disconnected. Another senate member agreed about the AI facilitator issue but said the on-campus version of that session had gone well. They suggested focusing future retreats more on well-being activities, leaving professional development workshops for on-campus sessions. They also enjoyed Laurie's section, which she found inspiring, and suggested possibly moving future retreats to Thursdays or other weekdays. A senate member appreciated Laurie's talk but mentioned that not everyone is career-focused at this stage (some nearing retirement), though she still found the session energizing. Lastly, senate members simply noted that the s'mores were delicious.

Future planning ideas:

Participants agreed that holding retreats off campus is beneficial and suggested setting up a carpool or commuter system. There was discussion about increasing awareness of existing campus affinity groups such as OLA and integrating that culture into the Classified Senate community. Suggestions included having the Classified Senate host an affinity group panel, adding affinity group information to directory pages or website profiles, and including regular updates about such groups in future CS meetings.

Committee Appointments (Program Review) & Updates

Various committee appointments and announcements were made throughout this meeting.

~~Annual Schedule Timeline Updates Overview~~

Kurt was unable to attend today's meeting. This point will be rescheduled for the next meeting in November.

District Climate Survey Next Steps

The group discussed ways to address morale and engagement among staff, suggesting the possibility of hosting town halls and focus groups to provide open spaces for dialogue. A key question raised was how the Classified Senate can play a role in holding administration accountable for responding to employee survey feedback, as participants noted that little has changed fundamentally, which may explain why morale and workplace "temperature" on campus remain the same.

There was also discussion around the district's *Vision 2030* goals and whether the Classified Senate should issue a statement acknowledging them. Members noted that while the initiative is known, the specific goals are not well understood, and further work—likely to be led by the Classified Senate—will be needed to clarify and respond to them.

Participants emphasized the importance of dedicating time during meetings for classified professionals to discuss campus issues openly, underscoring the value of having structured spaces for these conversations. Concerns were expressed that current planning documents lack actionable steps, making it difficult for staff to have confidence in leadership or in the potential for meaningful change. While there was general approval to

move forward, members stressed the need to ensure that all voices are included in future discussions and decisions.

Announcements

- ACE meeting this upcoming Wednesday at Sunnyvale center
- Proposal to make Rachel Tai and Anthony Cacaress as 2025 Program Review readers
 - Motion: Mary V
 - Second: Danmin D
 - Vote: approved
- HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!
- Are we interested in doing trivia against faculty? And administrators at some point?
- Idea of having birthday cards for classified professionals and dropping it in their mailboxes on a month by month basis—sept and oct will be given retroactively