

FOOTHILL CLASSIFIED SENATE MINUTES

February 19, 2026



[Link to Agenda](#)

[Link to Powerpoint Slides](#)

Name	Position	Attendance
Vanessa Santillan-Nieto	President	present
Pauline Brown	President-Elect	present
Sheherazade Arasnia	Treasurer	<i>absent</i>
Trizha Loren Aquino	Secretary	present
Doreen Finkelstein	Past President	present
Adiel Velasquez	Senator	present
Chris Custer	Senator	<i>absent</i>
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	<i>absent</i>
Mary Vanatta	Senator	present
Michelle Tham	Senator	<i>absent</i>
Nadene Torres	Senator	present
Nannette Regua	Senator	present
Yasmine Malboubi	Senator	present

Other Classified Staff in attendance: Caroline Park, Alex Collins, Jackie Lauese, Jessica Alarcon, Julie Brown, Kaitlyn Koo, Raine Phan, Sonia Sanchez Santoyo

Other Faculty or Administration in attendance:

Other guests in attendance:

A staff member had questioned if FA has been contacted to see if there was a stance from the constituency groups on how the school should approach rehiring.

- Answer: There will be an item on the upcoming MIP-C meeting on reimagining the hiring structure of the campus.

Classified PD Day Updates and Workshops

The event has received 110 RSVPs district-wide, with about one-third coming from Central Services. Part of the strong turnout is attributed to district support in promoting the RSVP, including a shoutout in President Whalen's 5-4-3-2-1 message and an extended deadline. Professional Development is open to TEAs, and colleagues are encouraged to attend. Planned topics include wellness activities, bargaining units and employee rights, KCI makerspace personalization activities, and Element 451. Food options are still being finalized, with Kona Ice as a possible vendor.

VP Finance Hiring Committee

Teresa Ong is leading the hiring committee following Bret Watson's decision to take the Supplemental Retirement Plan (SRP) and retire this year. The committee is seeking Classified representation, with the expectation that the representative can attend all scheduled meetings.

This process is a valuable opportunity to observe how administrative hiring differs from other searches, particularly in the second-round interview stage. There was also a note that the SRP and other restructuring efforts will likely increase the need for Classified staff representation on future hiring committees.

Timeline of hiring process (tentative):

- 3/10: posting
- 4/20: posting closes and review begins
- 4/27: committee reviews and selects candidates to interview
- 5/14 + 5/15: All day interviews
- 5/18-5/25: community forums and meeting with president
- 6/1: final offer

Next steps: Vanessa will reach out to Yasmine Malboubi, who has expressed interest in serving on the committee.

AI Fellows Updates (Yasmine Malboubi, AI Fellow Classified Representative)

The AI Fellows group consists of 18 members: 4 students, 5 faculty, 5 deans, 3 supervisors (including 2 classified supervisors), and 1 classified staff member. They meet biweekly from 2–4 p.m.

The group is divided into four subgroups: Policy and Governance, Community, Equity, and Communication, Curriculum Literacy and Professional Learning, and Integration, Testing, and Data.

- Community, Equity, and Communication is developing a survey and Padlet to gather anonymous feedback from the broader community, with plans to launch the survey in the coming weeks.
- Policy and Governance is gathering input through shared governance representatives and working on recommendations for faculty, classified staff, and administrators. Topics include student and public use of AI, AI in curriculum, and FERPA guidelines.
- Curriculum Literacy and Professional Learning is exploring tools such as Office 365 and Copilot, and considering a required Canvas module that students would complete before accessing tools like Gemini or NotebookLM, with a similar process for employees. They are also identifying professional learning topics of interest, such as prompt writing.
- Integration, Testing, and Data is currently focused on evaluating Gemini and NotebookLM, which are available to the Foothill community.

Yasmine asked Classified Senate what guidance or feedback from Classified Staff should be shared with the AI Policy Group.

- A staff member asked whether the AI Fellows have connected with the Technology Committee and what overlap exists.
 - Representatives of both committees shared that there has not been coordination; the Technology Committee is not AI-focused, though overlap may occur. Both groups are still defining their scope and identity.
- A staff member asked about student representation in AI Fellows.
 - It was explained that each of the four subgroups includes a student, and she is currently participating across all groups until structures are finalized. The work is being framed around student success.

Yasmine asked what guidance should be brought to the Policy Group.

- A staff member requested clearer guidance, particularly regarding FERPA and confidentiality.
- Yasmine emphasized not entering confidential information into AI tools. Current guidance permits Zoom Companion for note-taking, and employees should confirm if other AI note-takers are being used (per Jory's prior communication).
- Another staff member expressed interest in inviting Jory to a Central Services meeting due to recent technology rollouts.
- Yasmine confirmed that Gemini and Copilot are available for use.

MIP-C Agenda Review

The agenda will include a deeper discussion of Element 451, following a preview at the last MIP-C meeting where attendees saw the wide range of software and programming tools involved. The breadth of tools raised questions about cost, relevance, and overall impact. The AI Fellows will provide a high-level overview of their plans, building on earlier updates shared in the meeting. There will also be an update on Muwekma Ohlone engagement, focusing on how the college is working in alignment with local Native communities and how these efforts connect to the Blueprint for Success goals. Dr. Whalen will present on Stakeholder Engagement and Realignment related to the Supplemental Retirement Plan (SRP), including a proposed timeline for reimagining hiring structures. This may involve either rehiring or restructuring positions following SRP departures. The discussion is expected to be significant, as it could impact departments that are losing colleagues. It will also provide transparency about who has taken the SRP and offer a valuable opportunity for college-wide engagement.

It is recommended that folks who would like to be more involved with campus decisions and news attend the MIP-C meetings.

Classified Community Learning Series – Series 2026

For the Winter Series, attendees should check their Outlook calendars for upcoming invitations. The next session will be held in a hybrid format. There was also feedback that 9:00 a.m. may be too early for some participants, so future sessions may adjust the timing to improve accessibility and attendance.

Committee Updates (Unlocking Opportunities, Tech Committee, IEC, etc.)

- Aspen Institute

The college is participating in the Aspen Institute's *Unlocking Opportunity* initiative, a prestigious, invitation-only, multi-year program. The process involves deeply analyzing institutional data to identify an area of focus for improvement. The college is currently in the data-gathering and discovery phase. Aspen provides a structured framework for analyzing data, including evaluating areas such as transfer programs. The framework categorizes programs as "low value," "medium value," or "high value," though the committee has expressed concerns about these labels and is discussing what metrics should determine those distinctions.

One early finding showed that while many students received guaranteed acceptance to local colleges, only a small percentage enrolled on the first day of the fall quarter. There was also emphasis on ensuring students leave the college able to financially support themselves and their families. VSN noted the importance of focusing on "fundable outcomes" and setting realistic, attainable goals rather than simply pursuing what looks good on paper.

- Program Review

For program review, there are two program review templates currently in use: one for instructional programs and one customized template for other areas.

- Technology Committee

The Technology Committee will hold its second meeting next week (it meets monthly). Appreciation was shared for participation in the anonymous survey distributed at the last meeting. One key takeaway from the survey was that when new programs are introduced, employees overwhelmingly identified training as essential for success. This feedback will be shared with the committee.

Announcements

- Janie shared that Foothill (Sunnyvale campus) will soon be offering a Payroll Preparation Certificate!

- starting with a pilot, offering payroll preparation certificate which is 18 units. Requirements are the same, but offering it for 1 quarter. 6 classes total, starting in Spring quarter
- Can direct anyone who is interested to Janie
- Website: <https://foothill.edu/accounting/payroll-certificate.html>
- VSN: reminder that there is a classified mixer social this afternoon, will be at Eureka starting at 5pm. If weather permits, there will be downtown Sunnyvale stroll.