

Mission Informed Planning Council (MIPC) Thematic Summary: 2024–2025 Academic Year

A Year of Thoughtful Vision, Collective Care, and Brave Conversations

A Celebratory Year of Vision and Action

The 2024–2025 academic year for the Mission Informed Planning Council was defined by a bold embrace of institutional values, inclusive governance, and mission-informed innovation. The council operated at the intersection of strategic planning, social responsibility, and operational integrity—engaging diverse voices and striving for institutional transformation.

Theme 1: Reaffirming and Reimagining the College's Core Identity

- **Updated Vision Statement:** The college adopted a refreshed vision—*“Foothill College is the institution of choice in Silicon Valley for catalyzing personal, economic, and social change”*—positioning itself with pride and ambition.
- **Core Values Redefined:** After deep deliberation, MIPC approved a revised set of values grounded in *love, compassion, curiosity, collaboration, and mindful inclusion*. The addition of “love” as a core value sparked rich, research-based discussions on belonging and transformative care.
- **Institutional Learning Outcomes** were grown from the soil of a new mission, vision, and values. After being stable for decades, the new ILOs were thoroughly circulated, crafted, and revised so that they are relevant and representative.

Ongoing/Challenging: Discussions revealed tension between abstract values and operational clarity. Continued engagement will be needed to embed these values across institutional practices.

Theme 2: Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Renewal

- **Strategic Plan (or EMP):** With consultants from Collaborative Brain Trust, the council initiated a robust community-informed process for the eventual *Foothill 2030: Blueprint for Success*. Engagement included surveys, gallery walks, goal-setting sessions, and alignment with equity priorities.

- **Vision 2030 Metrics:** Ambitious state targets challenged the institution to think creatively about reengaging economically disadvantaged students and expanding services to adult learners with some college and no degree.
- **Technology Governance:** The council continues to struggle to provide clearer structures for the Technology Committee but adopted recommendations for VP-level oversight and greater Classified Senate involvement.
- **Institutional Planning:** The newly formed Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC) worked diligently to organize the college's planning practices. A seven-year calendar and processes for evaluation are rapidly forming.

Ongoing/Challenging: Moderate Strategic Growth (MSG) aligned with priorities requires greater clarity and conversations, and meeting long-term goals of living wage attainment and systemic equity requires sustained, coordinated effort.

Theme 3: Campus Improvements for a Culture of Care

- **Facilities & Sustainability:** Completed projects included a one-time bamboo garden clean-up, lighting design for future installations, and all-gender restrooms. Energy-efficient LED lighting, koi pond proposals, and EV charging stations show continued momentum.
- **Extended Food Service Hours:** Student advocacy with the support of Classified Senate and others, extended the hours for food services on campus. This effort affirmed that MIPC is a place where advocacy for key services translates into action.
- **LRC and Supplemental Instruction:** While funding reductions sparked concern, MIPC affirmed, through a Town Hall, the need for further research on tutoring models while a two-year transitional model supported by COVID Block Grant funds occurs.

Ongoing/Challenging: Tension persists between budget realities and faculty/student desires for robust academic support, requiring careful stewardship of future resource allocations.

Theme 4: Governance, Equity, and Transparency

- **Governance Evaluation:** The Institutional Effectiveness Committee initiated a governance survey to assess how well MIPC and related bodies support inclusive and effective decision-making.

- **Affinity Group Engagement:** Groups like APAN, AAN, OLA, and the Rainbow Alliance regularly reported vibrant programming, social justice advocacy, and student-centered events—such as Lavender Graduation, Divine Nine events, and Noche de Comunidad.

Ongoing/Challenging: Student voices raised urgent concerns around safety (door locks, nighttime waiting areas) and access (gym hours, e-printing), highlighting the continued need to translate equity into action at the ground level through The Way of the Owl.

Theme 5: Bookstore, Belonging Centers, and Structural Planning

- **Bookstore Redesign:** With underutilization evident, MIPC reviewed models for a hybrid or online bookstore that balances physical presence with digital access.
- The campuses new Belonging Centers (BIPOC, Wellness Lounge, Owl's Nest and PRIDE Center) were lauded as an area where clear progress was made on goals in the Strategic Vision for Equity.
- **MIPC 13-55 Project:** Continued planning around space, naming, and representation for the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe underscored Foothill's commitment to reconciliation and place-based justice.

Ongoing/Challenging: Final decisions around bookstore location, and tribal partnership free-tuition implementation remain in development and require concrete processes and broad community dialogue.

Closing Reflection

The Mission Informed Planning Council exemplifies shared governance in action—holding space for difficult conversations while celebrating collective progress. Through planning, participation, and principled decision-making, MIPC is shaping into a more responsive, values-driven Foothill College