

# The Parliament

FOOTHILL COLLEGE FACULTY & STAFF NEWSLETTER | FALL QUARTER



## Week 12: Dec. 11, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We made it! Today is the last day of the fall quarter and the Parliament cannot help but ruminate on the last 12 months. The year started with a historic visit from Dr. Cornel West, was dominated by COVID-19 and the national racial reckoning in the wake of George Floyd's murder, and culminated with the most contentious general election in US history and the approval of a vaccine to stem the tide of the pandemic. In the meantime, Foothill College pivoted to provide all services and classes virtually, distributed several million dollars in direct aid to our students, and still managed to start work on an Ethnic Studies curriculum, complete the final draft of our Strategic Equity Plan, and receive recognition locally and nationally for our innovation and excellence. We are hard on ourselves (as we should be) when it comes to always seeking better ways to serve our students, but the college community came together to do great things this year.

The Parliament hopes that you and your loved ones have a relaxing and restorative winter holiday. Please try to avoid email, take lots of long walks, and recharge your batteries for 2021!

### **Classified Senate Resolution in Response to Student Letter to Governance**

Whereas in October 2020 Foothill College students wrote the [Open Letter to Foothill College Governance](#) in order to clarify and expand on twelve demands;

Whereas the twelve demands in the student letter are motivated by ongoing violence and systemic racism against the Black community;

Whereas the twelve demands focus on student equity and make specific recommendations regarding Ethnic Studies, diversifying curriculum, mandatory training, faculty diversity, outreach to Black and African American students, supporting indigenous and native students and communities, mental health, basic needs, financial literacy, reimagining campus safety, observing Juneteenth, and student activism;

Whereas Foothill Classified Senate has received, read, and discussed the *Open*



*Letter to Foothill College Governance* (henceforth called the *Student Letter*) with the authors;

Whereas the Mission of Foothill Classified Senate is “to work in partnership with faculty and administrators to provide students with the support needed to achieve excellent educational experiences and learning opportunities by promoting excellence in all aspects of support provided to the college community, and especially to staff” ([CS Constitution](#));

Whereas the Purpose of Foothill Classified Senate is “to participate in the governance structure of Foothill College; to actively collect, evaluate, and disseminate information for the classified staff; and to represent the collective interests of the classified staff before or on any governance, college or district committee” ([CS Constitution](#));

Whereas Foothill Classified Senate is organized, among other reasons, “to participate in the Foothill College governance structure” and “to provide a body representing the needs, concerns, and viewpoints of the classified staff” ([CS Constitution](#));

Whereas Foothill Classified Senate “may make recommendations and take action for the classified staff” and “may take official positions on the recommendations made to the college president”([CS Constitution](#)); and

Whereas Foothill Classified Senate agrees with the twelve demands in the *Student Letter*; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that Foothill Classified Senate:

1. Views the health, well-being, safety, and success of Foothill students as its own health, well-being, safety, and success;
2. Commits to ongoing collaboration with Foothill’s students to remain informed about their experiences and demands;
3. Will formalize space on its agendas to discuss student equity issues to remain knowledgeable about ongoing student demands and to address those concerns in its meetings; and
4. Will prioritize the appointment of representatives to governance councils who are aware of student equity issues and resolve to use their voice and vote on campus governance councils and district committees to advance the students’ demands from the *Student Letter*, as well any future demands that may arise from Classified Senate’s collaboration with students.

## **Awards & Accolades**

Longtime part-time faculty member and Silicon Valley artist laureate **Julie Engelbrecht** is the production designer for [The Meshuga Nutcracker!](#), creating scenery, costumes, props and accessories for this full-length musical comedy. The show is available for streaming when you subscribe to Broadway HD and is fun for people of all faiths.



Julie also had a piece of her art accepted in a juried exhibit at the San Jose Municipal Airport. The work, *Pandemic Remnants #2, Chaos, Destruction, Order & Beauty* will be on display from Feb. 5 to March 4, 2021, in the rotating exhibit, *Holding the Moment*. It can be viewed with the entire exhibit on the City of San Jose [website](#) or on [Facebook](#).



## Among Us Competition

ASFC has planned an Among Us competition for winter break. Among Us is a multiplayer game of teamwork and betrayal. Four to 10 people work together in a space setting, unaware that there are imposters in their midst.

The competition is open to students and staff. Register to play on the [Foothill Among Us site](#). Winners will get prizes!



## Theatre Arts Presents: *Culture Clatter*

Check out this Saturday's *Culture Clatter!* This week's theme is Stories from Black America, featuring new short plays by local playwrights.

A live Q&A with Foothill faculty and members of the artistic team will follow the show. Recordings will be available after plays premiere. Visit the [theatre website](#) for play details and email [theatreboxoffice@fhda.edu](mailto:theatreboxoffice@fhda.edu) for the links.



*The Smarter Choice*



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