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**From:** Bernadine Chuck Fong <fongbernadine@fhda.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 11:29 AM  
**To:** foothill; centralservices; asfcelelectedappointed@foothilldeanza.onmicrosoft.com;  
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**Subject:** "re" in a word...and African American Heritage Month and more

What does “re” mean and how is it used? For starters, it can be part of the word, “read.” In celebration of **African American Heritage Month**, I joined the students for their kickoff last Wednesday and asked everyone to celebrate the month not only now but going forward. I suggested reading at least one article, book, or magazine authored by an African American or perhaps a biography of a noted African American. I recalled, when Natalia Menendez was first hired as a faculty member, she, like all other probationary faculty members, had several classroom visitations. I had the pleasure of visiting Natalia’s class and learned that she had assigned her students to read the literary genre of “slave narratives.” I was not familiar with this rich resource of African American history. Sometime later, as president, I decided to establish the Jefferson Award for Innovation, named after Thomas Jefferson and based on the comment John F. Kennedy made honoring Noble prize winners. He acknowledged that this event was “the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever been gathered together at the White House, with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone.” Natalia graciously left me a book about Thomas Jefferson, and I went on to read the story of Sally Hemings and became fascinated with the stories and testimonials about her life and their four children. I have been a follower of the Jefferson-Hemings narrative ever since. We did not go forward with a “Jefferson Award” and hence, our “reading assignment” for this month and beyond will only help us to enrich our lives and deepen our understanding of African American history and culture.

Another “re” word is *realignment* or *reinstatement* and that is what we are beginning to do with our academic divisions. We are trying to *restore* the divisional organization structure which was partially dismantled because of budget cuts. Thus, in consultation with the relevant groups, we are looking at *returning* the allied health programs to their own division and separating it from the STEM division. We are also considering returning to the more traditional division structure which will also re-establish the Fine Arts and PE/Kinesiology as separate divisions.

Last week I mentioned that we are *reimagining* how shared governance should look on our campus, as we begin our *re-emergence* from Covid, noting how *resilient* the college has been. We are beginning to re-establish our momentum and *re-focusing* on some of the major initiatives at hand, such as our self-study for accreditation and our educational equity master plan, our mission statement, our program review, and our student learning outcomes, to name a few. And in particular, we owe a great deal of thanks to: **Elaine Kuo**, (IRP and accreditation liaison), **Anthony Cervantes** (A&R), **Roosevelt Charles** (Counseling), **Isaac Escoto** (Counseling), **Doreen Finkelstein** (IRP), **Laura Gamez** (Library), **Kelaiah Harris** (Instruction), **Kurt Hueg** (Instruction), **Leticia Maldonado** (Student Affairs & Activities), Kathryn Maurer (Anthropology), **Bruce McLeod** (Theatre), **Rosa Nguyen** (Chemistry), **Josh Pelletier** (Dual Enrollment/Outreach), **Simon Pennington** (College/Community Relations, Marketing, Communications), **Laurie Scolari** (Student Services), and **Vanessa Smith** (Marketing/PR) for their hard work and diligence, as they were instrumental in preparing the Midterm Report as part of our regular accreditation review process. It was accepted by the accrediting body as affirmation of our work and progress. This team also demonstrates the *resilience* that is part of the character of the college in spite of Covid and the many distractions and disruptions Foothill has sustained. We thank you.

And earlier this week, faculty and deans had a meeting with a venture capital company investing in metaverse applications. I mentioned exploring metaverse opportunities in an earlier email. We are exploring all opportunities to re-establish Foothill as a leader in educational technology, whether in person or virtual learning. Exposing students to a variety of modalities, particularly here in the Silicon Valley is a given. In addition, we have just entered an executive loan program with *Joint Venture Silicon Valley* in which **Teresa Ong**, our AVPI for workforce, will spend 50% of her time with JVSV in developing its Build Back Better Initiative which focuses on safety net programs. She will also develop strategic partnerships in internship and training programs in the area. And speaking of Teresa, she has just secured a *\$1M grant* for the Semiconductor Career and Apprenticeship Network to develop a pipeline for our students. This grant was made possible with the help of **Chris Allen, Phuong Tran, Gay Krause, Justin Sewell, and Carolyn Brown**. We thank you.

Lastly, we are *re-investing* in our Sunnyvale campus, which is now the home of our EMT, Child Development programs and soon to be home to other allied health programs in need of more space. The campus will be our career/workforce center where “workforce” includes professional careers in healthcare, childcare, technology, and semiconductor career pathways. So as Foothill is *re-establishing* itself as a leader in educational technology, Sunnyvale is undergoing a *rebirth*.

So much for our “re” words...though I could go on.....

Best regards,

*Bernadine*

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