

Executive Committee 2020-21

January 6, 2021

Dear President Nguyen:

I am following up on the [Academic Senate's response](#) of December 11 to the students' [October 2020 Open Letter to Foothill College Governance](#). As you will read in our response, we support the students' letter and demands, and we have proposed next steps we might take as a senate, and a college, in support of these demands. In this letter I summarize the actions we are committing to within the senate, and also work we would like to see our college and/or district prioritize in different shared governance arenas. By way of this letter, we would like to request your support and advocacy of this work.

The students' letter prompted vigorous discussions in many different (virtual) campus spaces this fall. In addition to "digging in" to the twelve demands, these conversations also touched upon campus reactions to the receipt of a student demand letter with an equity focus addressed to "shared governance." In the faculty-led spaces (meetings of the Academic Senate and an ad hoc workgroup formed to develop our response, division conversations between senators and their constituents, email responses sent to Academic Senate officers from faculty, etc.), we heard overwhelming support for the students and their demands alongside faculty concerns with institutional structures and campus climate potentially affecting our ability to be effective in our response to these demands.

In our letter to the students, we shared a number of the questions and concerns that were raised by faculty. We would like an opportunity to have a conversation with you and the other recipients of the students' letter to debrief these conversations, and attempt to answer some of these questions. We would like to ask you to convene this group sometime in Winter 2021, and lead us in this conversation.

scheduling of the new courses as soon as we receive the necessary approvals to include them in our catalog. We hope to count on your support for these as well.

We support this demand and recognize our role and responsibility in addressing it. To this end we have committed to developing an Academic Senate/CCC/COOL Equity Action Plan by June 2021. In addition, we reaffirm the academic senate's role in faculty evaluation, another area called out by the students in this section of their letter. While we recognize that faculty evaluation is a negotiated item between the Faculty Association (FA) and the College/District Administration, we also recognize that per California Education Code, "[i]n those districts where faculty evaluation procedures are collectively bargained, the faculty's exclusive representative shall consult with the academic senate prior to engaging in collective bargaining regarding those procedures" (Section 87663). We kindly ask for your support in confirming this consultation with the senate ha

We support this demand and we advocate for the creation of a Study Group under one of the governance councils and/or a Districtwide Task Force be formed to further analyze this demand and the proposed strategies.

We support this demand and in addition to Senate actions we have proposed in our response to the students, we also advocate for the creation of a Study Group under one of the governance councils to further analyze this demand and the proposed strategies.

We support this demand, and we advocate for the creation of a Districtwide Task Force to further analyze this demand and the proposed strategies.

We support this demand, and in addition to our statements made in support of it in our response to the student letter, we ask for your support of the Academic Senate Ad Hoc workgroup we will be forming in Winter 2021 to further analyze this demand by facilitating information and data that may help us in our analysis and development of our action plan. We also would appreciate assistance with proposing linkages between our planning efforts to address this demand with other conversations you may be aware of at the College and/or in the District.

We support this demand, and we advocate for the creation of a Districtwide Task Force to further analyze this demand and some of the proposed strategies.

We support districtwide conversations around the Juneteenth holiday to explore options to add this observance to the academic calendar.

We support this demand and in addition to the comments made in our response to the students, we also advocate for the creation of a Study Group under one of the governance councils to further analyze this demand and some of the proposed strategies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathryn Maurer", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, there is a decorative horizontal band with a repeating pattern of small, colorful geometric shapes.

Kathryn Maurer, PhD.
Foothill College Academic Senate President

Attachment: Academic Senate Response to the Student Letter Dec 2020.pdf

CC: Foothill College Student Leaders: Jayme Albritton, Josh Contreras, Moremi Mabogunje, Abhiraj Muhar, Mariam Touni, and Priya Vasu; Executive Committee of the Academic Senate; Tri-Chairs, Facilitators and Ex-Officios of Advisory Council, E&E, R&R and C&C; Classified Senate President, Josh Pelletier; District Academic Senate President, Isaac Escoto; FA President & Chief