

## **Academic Senate Candidate Statements for 2024-26**

### **Academic Senate Secretary Treasurer Candidate Statement 2024**

#### **Robert D. Cormia**

For nearly twenty years I've been associated with the Academic Senate, first as a division senator representing CTIS, and then taking over as Secretary-Treasurer in 2004, to fill an unexpected vacancy. I continued from 2004-5 through 2006-7, and then again from 2009-10 through 2014-15. During that time I set up electronic voting, organized the Academic Senate website, and served as District Senate President for one year. I became very familiar with shared governance and the process of committees, the importance of getting succinct and timely minutes to our representatives, colleagues, and other campus stakeholders. In summer 2019 I rejoined the Academic Senate once again as secretary treasurer, and helped stabilize our Academic budget, working with Kathryn Mauer and Cabinet for a slightly new model for funding our activities. Working with Voltaire Vilanueva and Jazmine Garcia, we developed a more automated method for recording Senate service for PAA. I plan to work with the College to automate, or streamline the recording and reporting of PGA. I enjoy serving in leadership, more recently with the EASAC committee, preparing reports and presentations for the Board of Trustees, and advocating for "big ideas" to keep our District moving towards decarbonization, serving as a model for other community colleges. I've attended the Statewide Academic Senate Plenary many times, and once as District Senate president. I enjoy working with faculty, staff and administrators, listening carefully to the issues that arise in the course of our academic work, the programs we want to advocate for, and quite honestly, having easy access to leadership, and visibility as a person whose ideas matter, as all ours do. The Academic Senate is a lot of work, especially keeping things organized. Each year I served as treasurer, I prepared a financial worksheet, showing the beginning and ending balances, debits and credits, and instituted a practice of oversight to ensure that the checkbook and all financial statements were accurate. I'm known for being pretty thrifty with the account balance. I'm ready to serve again as Academic Senate Secretary Treasurer, ensuring the voice of our faculty senate in shared governance at Foothill College

**Part-Time Senate Faculty Rep: Lynnette Joy Vega**

I have taught for Foothill in the Community Based Adaptive Learning program since around 1996 and am currently the Faculty Facilitator for our program. Since Donna Frankel is no longer our representative, I feel that it's important to have someone step forward to represent our issues. I don't know if others have applied but I would also like to "throw my hat in the ring", so to speak. If I can still be allowed to run for this office, I'm including a "campaign statement". Here is the information you requested:

My name is Lynnette Joy Vega and I have taught a number of courses in the Community Based Adaptive Learning program for approximately 28 years. I currently teach Relaxation Techniques on-line and am Faculty Facilitator for our program. While the Community Based Adaptive Learning program is little known on the Foothill campus, in the not too distant future I believe it may be one of the most important parts of our college -- as most of our students are older adults and those with disabilities (think in terms of the needs of the huge "baby boomer" generation who are now in their early 70's). As part-time faculty, I and my colleagues are really at the very bottom of the totem pole. Though we may put in hours to prepare for and teach our classes, our salaries are well below that of full time instructors. And, even though many of us have been teaching for the college for many years, we aren't guaranteed a job and have to petition to teach every quarter. If I'm elected to the Faculty Senate, I hope to be a voice in advocating for the interest of part time faculty and also in bringing a focus to the students that we serve.

Lynnette Joy Vega

Faculty, Community Based Adaptive Learning program

**Candidate for: President Voltaire Villanueva, Ed.D.**

Discipline(s): Counseling and Psychology

As college enrollment declines and potential budget constraints confront us, these challenging times present an excellent opportunity for the Foothill College Academic Senate to play a crucial role in providing stability, building community trust, and fostering a supportive campus environment where students, staff, and faculty can thrive. My interest in serving as Academic Senate President is driven by these challenges, but more importantly, by my desire to help faculty navigate these hardships and seize opportunities for growth and improvement. Having served as a counselor for seventeen years and actively participating in Academic Senate and campus-wide committees, I have cultivated relationships built on hard work, dedication, and the hope that these connections will remain strong, lasting, and sustainable. My personal values and philosophical approach are rooted in being compassionate, empathetic, and empowering. These values drive me in my work to recognize the unique qualities of others, ultimately increasing their sense of self and agency. Over the past two years as the Academic Senate President, I have collaborated on various initiatives, including initiating the development of the Educational Master Plan, the accreditation process, and district enrollment management. I have also been actively involved in the discussions around identifying regular and substantive interaction between faculty and students. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to serving the Foothill College community and supporting our faculty, staff, and students through these challenging times. I am someone who can thoughtfully facilitate discussion to uplift all voices, honor differences, and direct dialogue that is rooted in critical thinking, data, policies, and educational trends for our campus community. Beyond the Academic Senate, I am a Counselor and a Psychology Instructor. This unique position underscores the wide range of tasks I am capable of and the ability to understand different faculty perspectives. This understanding can help bridge the needs of both instructional and non-instructional faculty alike, especially as we adopt the work the campus has engaged in with creating a Guided Pathways model for the college. My current faculty roles on campus emphasize my commitment to improve the lives of young people both directly and indirectly, however, more importantly, I am guided by my experience as an immigrant and first-generation college student who attended public schools. As an advocate for and believer in the promise of equal access and opportunity through public education, it is my intention to implement institutional change and lead a concerted effort to improve and enhance student success here at Foothill College. As the father of two school-aged children, I have a desire that someday they become the beneficiaries of the work we are to embark on if I am re-elected. As our nation grapples with historical and contemporary truths about race and racial injustice, public education is being questioned and critiqued. Unfortunately, some of these critiques come from individuals who fail to grasp the challenges of our changing and growing population. In addition to listening to and empathizing with the many stakeholders of our campus community, the evolving world and the needs of students and faculty demand imagination and a willingness to take risks. The Academic Senate can lead the

way in forging crucial relationships, fostering new ideas and approaches to the needs of our students and faculty, and building trust with staff and administration to create a stronger campus community. I hope my solid background and experience, coupled with my eagerness to embrace change and foster community, will convince you that I am qualified to make a significant contribution to the Foothill College Academic Senate as your President.