

Associated Students of Foothill College
Resolution on Affordable Housing

Whereas, a recent study¹ showed that California community college students are increasingly housing insecure, with 1 in 5 students currently homeless, roughly 400,000 students in the system, and that 60 percent of community college students in California have experienced recent housing insecurity and 50 percent have struggled with food insecurity in the last year; and

Whereas a “burden survey” of over 450 FHDA students in 2019 examining barriers to student success mirrored statewide data, with 60% of respondents reporting housing insecurity; and

Whereas, the mission and values of both Foothill College and De Anza College are firmly grounded in equity and reflect support for all students in reaching their goals, regardless of their backgrounds; and

Whereas, housing and food insecurity can seriously negatively impact the mental and physical health and well-being of community college students, especially those already at risk, thereby reducing their opportunities for success. Thirty-one percent of Black students reported being without permanent shelter, while 34% of transgender students and 27% of gay and lesbian students lacked stable homes²; and

Whereas, Silicon Valley has seen over the years a tech boom that has fueled a demand for housing, but not the necessary supply of housing to meet that demand³; and

Whereas, the Bay Area housing crisis has resulted in pricing many FHDA employees out of being able to purchase a home while also leading to the skyrocketing of rents; and

¹ The California Community Colleges #RealCollege Survey conducted by the Hope Center (March 2019). Link: <https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/RealCollege-CCCCO-Report.pdf>

² “Community colleges can cost more than universities, leaving neediest students homeless,” by Anita Chabria, March 7, 2019, Los Angeles Times)

³ “Secret lives of Bay Area part-time profs: Here's why they work at Safeway, live out of cars” (February 5, 2018) Link: <https://www.sfgate.com/expensive-san-francisco/article/The-secret-lives-of-part-time-Bay-Area-professors-12529299.php#photo-14966007>)

Whereas, part-time faculty and classified workers at Foothill-De Anza in many cases do not receive adequate compensation to afford rent comfortably let alone to afford the purchase of a home in the Bay Area; and

Whereas, many part-time instructors at Foothill-De Anza are forced to teach at several districts to make ends meet or take on second or third jobs to afford rent; and

Whereas younger workers and/or those newer to the housing market in particular are priced out of the FHDA housing market making recruitment of qualified employees more difficult; and

Whereas in numerous meetings before the FHDA Board of Trustees student leaders, including those from ASFC and DASB as well as elected past/present student trustees, have repeatedly pleaded for District action and relief in support of homeless and housing insecure students and employees; and

Whereas in the fall of 2019 the FHDA Chancellor's staff included the recommendation of spending \$200-\$300 million to address affordable housing needs of students and employees in an official presentation to the FHDA Board of Trustees; and

Whereas, responding to the needs of homeless and housing-insecure students and employees, the FHDA Board of Trustees explicitly included spending on affordable housing for FHDA students and employees in its resolution authorizing voter consideration in the Spring 2020 election of up to \$890 million in construction bond spending for the District; and

Whereas, in the March 2020 election a super-majority of voters overwhelmingly approved FHDA's Measure G authorizing \$890 million in construction bonds for the FHDA Community College District, including spending for student and employee housing; and

Whereas, with the passage of Measure G, FHDA now has the opportunity to lead the way statewide in developing and showcasing a viable model to fund housing for at-risk students and employees in the community college system;

Resolved, the Associated Students of Foothill College congratulates FHDA voters, the FHDA Board of Trustees, rank-and-file students and student leaders, District and College staff and faculty, and FHDA community members for their support of student success and affordable housing through the passage of Measure G;

Resolved, the Associated Students of Foothill College supports the recommendation in the FHDA Chancellor's report to earmark \$200-\$300 million toward the construction of on-campus, public, affordable housing for FHDA students and employees;

Resolved, the Associated Students of Foothill College supports the utilization of College and District level shared governance committees using best practices for constituent engagement, with appropriate staff and consultant expertise and advice, to recommend best practices to construct and deliver affordable student and employee housing as rapidly as possible, and further calls upon such committees to include and incorporate meaningful input from and engagement with housing-insecure and homeless students and employees in the development of FHDA plans for affordable student and employee housing;

Resolved, the Associated Students of Foothill College supports the project of affordable student housing to be placed at the top of the Foothill College Revenue & Resources Council Facilities Study Group prioritization list;

Resolved, the Associated Students of Foothill College respectfully present this resolution, if passed, to the Foothill College Administration and the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees.