Committee Work at Foothill College

An FTLA Informational Project, by Jennifer Sinclair and Rosa Nguyen

Jennifer had heard some faculty complain that there was too much “extra” work to do and she had heard other faculty complain that it was the same few people who “did everything.” She had reflected on her own motivations, on what makes her willing or reluctant to commit to extra work and found herself wanting to see the “Big Picture” of the committee work across campus. She thought that would be relatively easy to figure out, but after several hours of research, was dismayed to find that she was still struggling to capture that “big picture.” She reached out to some colleagues for information and started constructing a spreadsheet of what she found. At an FTLA monthly meeting, she reported that after many hours of inquiry, she still didn’t have a snapshot or big picture, but she estimated that there were over 20 committees, with a total of over 100 faculty serving on them. Rosa mentioned that this sort of information could be helpful in the work she was doing on an accreditation team. So she and Jennifer partnered to try to better educate themselves on what governance and committee work look like campus wide.

## ***A Few Estimates***

Based on the [Foothill College website](http://foothill.edu/index.php), our [Governance Handbook](https://foothill.edu/staff/irs/Approved_GHB_100511.pdf), and questions we asked, we *estimate*:

* There are 30 college wide committees or workgroups that have faculty serving on them.
* There are 115 faculty members serving on these 30 committees.
  + 105 Full Time
  + 10 Part Time
* 47% (105/216) of Foothill Full Time Faculty are currently serving on some campus wide committee or workgroup.
* 3% (10/439) of Foothill Part Time Faculty (w/ spring assignment) are currently serving on some campus wide committee or workgroup

## ***One Kind of Structure***

Although we were not able to classify all committees/workgroups, most were classified as being associated with Academic Senate, PaRC, District, or the President’s Office, as follows:

### Academic Senate

Academic Senate, Student Learning Outcomes Committee, COOL Committee

### PaRC

PaRC, IB&P, OPC, Workforce, Transfer, Basic Skills, Student Equity, Student Success Collaborative, Technology (Tech Master Plan), Program Review, Professional Development, SSSP, Accreditation

### District

RP Group Assessment Taskforce, PDL Committee, Chancellor’s Advisory Committee

### President’s Office

Commencement Committee

### Other/Unclassified

FA, Academic and Professional Matters, Academic Council, Academic Integrity Committee, Assessment and Placement Ad Hoc Committee, Behavior Evaluation Strategies Team, Campus Disciplinary Hearing and Grievance Panels, Honors Advisory Committee