

## FA Support for Academic Senates

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Dear Colleagues,

The Faculty Association wishes to express its support of the Academic Senate, both locally, in each of our colleges, and institutionally, as a legally mandated organization invaluable to the governance of our state's community college system. Recent attacks upon the legitimacy of the Senate ignore the crucial role that this deliberative body plays in insuring the fairness, effectiveness and incisiveness of decision making regarding the operations of our colleges. Whether in areas over which they exercise primary reliance (e.g. curriculum, grading policies and standards, policies for professional development and other academic and professional matters) or in roles in which they collaborate with college administrations (e.g. educational program development, governance structures as related to faculty roles, faculty participation in accreditation, program review, institutional planning and budget development) the Senates must be recognized as requisite partners--not to rubberstamp administrative agendas, but to analyze, problem solve and propose solutions.

Recent, flagrant administrative disregard for, as well as willful attempts to undermine the shared governance processes at our colleges has led the Faculty Association to reaffirm its appreciation of and commitment to the role the Senates play in furthering the interests not just of faculty, but staff, students and the broader community. As the Exclusive Bargaining Unit for Foothill-De Anza faculty, FA takes seriously the concerns and interests of our Senate colleagues, and indeed, many of our members are involved in the Senates and their various committees. While the union and senates each have their own responsibilities, we collaborate frequently and extensively, and are prepared to use our resources to help defend and advance our mutual interests. We implore the administrations of both colleges and the District to recognize and support the invaluable role our Senates, and faculty more broadly, fulfill in keeping things running smoothly. While we may not always agree on matters, we can learn to respect each others' contributions and to reap the benefits that come from working together.

Sincerely,

The Executive Council of the  
Foothill-De Anza Faculty Association