



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

Accreditation – Last Day

Greetings Foothill,

The accreditation visit is over!



Accreditation visiting team members at the “exit interview”

And the *preliminary* results are . . .

The college **met all the standards, with one exception** as it relates to policies and procedures.

Below is a summary of the team’s observations as conveyed by the team chair (Dr. Linda Rose) at the exit interview, with my comments:

Recommendation for Compliance (Standards I.B.7, I.C.5; and III.A.3)

The college does not meet this set of standards: the team recommends that the college regularly review and evaluate its institutional policies, procedures, publications and practices across all areas of the college, including instructional program, student and learning support services, resources management, and governance processes to assure effectiveness in supporting academic quality.

My Comments: the key words are “regularly review”. There are policies and procedures (and possibly publications and practices) that have not been reviewed for many years. I have preliminarily spoken with the chancellor and president’s cabinet about how to proceed with such review. It would involve collaboration with central services and De Anza College. More to come on this item later.

Recommendation for Improvement (Standards I.A.2; I.B.4; and I.B.9)

The college meets this set of standards. However, the team recommends the college still focus on making improvements: in order to improve institutional effectiveness and enhance the college’s culture of evidence-based decision-making, the team recommends that the college engage in continuous, broad based, systemic evaluation and planning by assessing, analyzing, organizing, and applying its assessment data to establish a robust set of evidence to determine how effectively the college is accomplishing its mission and meeting its institutional priorities to meet the educational needs of the students.

My Comments: the key words are “institutional effectiveness” and “evaluation”. Does the college make a point to systematically evaluate whether or not it is effective in what it has implemented? The team observed that the college is indeed making progress in evaluating its effectiveness, but wanted to make this a recommendation nevertheless to encourage the college to follow-through on such efforts.

Commendation: Exceeds Standard IV.A.1

The visiting team commends the college’s leadership for creating an environment where support for administrators, faculty, staff and students (regardless of their titles) to take initiative and encouraging innovation to create equity-based, student-centered programs and services that meet regional and statewide workforce and educational needs.

My Comments: the key words are “college’s leadership”, “innovation”, “equity”, “workforce and educational needs”.

Although not required to do so, many accreditation visiting teams do point out one or more areas for praise (exemplary practices) in which a college not only meets the standards, but exceeds it in a noteworthy manner. Since Standard IV falls under the heading of “leadership and governance,” the team is praising the people at Foothill College – that is, YOU! Whether you are in a “leadership” position to support innovation or someone who actually takes initiative and innovates (no matter your title), you have impressed the visiting team.

This commendation speaks to campus culture, and as a college president, I could not be

more elated by such praise. It is that “can-do” culture (especially in the areas of equity, workforce, and education in general) that will position Foothill College to be an institution of even greater transformative change and enable us to close that equity gap (once and for all).

WHAT’S NEXT?

The team chair will submit a draft of the report to the visiting team members for comment and possible revision. Then, the team chair sends me as CEO a final draft for correction of any factual errors.

The final report will then be submitted to the accrediting commission (ACCJC). The report by the visiting team contains preliminary findings. The final determination will be made by the accrediting commission when it meets on January 10-12, 2018. The commission may accept the team’s report in whole or in part. Here is a link to the process: <https://accjc.org/purpose-and-process/>

Many, many, many thanks!

In speaking with many people including the chancellor and trustees, this accreditation visit has been a successful one. Although we cannot fully breathe a sigh of relief until we get the final determination from the accrediting commission in January, I can say that we would not be where we are at right now if it was not for the yeoman’s work of many individuals at our college.

Thank you to the following individuals who stepped up!

STANDARD I SELF-EVALUATION TEAM		
Andrea Hanstein (Team Leader)	Administration	Marketing
Julie Brown	Classified	Veterans
Kai Chang	Classified	EOPS
Danmin Deng	Classified	Sunnyvale
Moaty Fayek	Administration	Workforce
Katherine Fortune	Classified	Student Affairs
Claudia Flores	Classified	Allied Health
Craig Gawlick	Classified	Sunnyvale
Robert Hartwell	Faculty	Theatre Arts
Elaine Kuo	Administration	Equity Programs
Lisa Ly	Classified	Institutional Research
Bruce McLeod	Faculty	Theatre
Simon Pennington	Administration	Fine Arts
Thom Shepard	Administration	Student Affairs
Lori Silverman	Administration	PSME
Nanette Solvason	Administration	Bio Health
Denise Swett	Administration	Student Services
Marcos Tovar	Classified	Outreach
Josh Westling	Faculty	Bio Health

STANDARD II SELF-EVALUATION TEAM

Carolyn Holcroft (Team Leader)	Faculty	Bio Health
Micaela Agyare	Faculty	Library
Laureen Balducci	Administration	Student Services
Anthony Cervantes	Classified	DRC
Lisa Collato	Adjunct	ESLL
Bernie Day	Faculty	Honors
Lisa Drake	Faculty	Accounting
Issac Escoto	Faculty	Counseling
Enjoli Flynn	Adjunct	Language Arts
Jazmine Garcia	Classified	CTE/Outreach
Valentin Garcia	Adjunct (NC)	FEI
Craig Gawlick	Classified	Sunnyvale
Dawn Girardelli	Administration	Sunnyvale
Katie Ha	Faculty	TLC
Debbie Lee	Faculty	Math
Rosa Nguyen	Faculty	Chemistry
Eric Reed	Faculty	STEM Center
Robbie Reid	Faculty	Art History
Katherine Schaefer	Adjunct	Anthropology
Lori Silverman	Faculty	Math
Paul Starer	Administration	Language Arts
Lan Truong	Administration	Counseling
Casie Wheat	Classified	Assessment

STANDARD III SELF-EVALUATION TEAM

Erin Ortiz (Team Leader)	Classified	Student Activities
Judy Baker	Administration	Online Education
Brenda Davis Visas	Administration	Finance + Admin
Kevin Herral	Administration	Financial Aid
Kurt Hueg	Administration	Business and Social Science
Sherri Mines	Classified	International
Jose Nava	Faculty	Business
Teresa Ong	Administration	Business
Romeo Paule	Administration	Bookstore
Josh Pelletier	Classified	Learning Center
Kamara Tramble	Classified	Student Activities

STANDARD IV SELF-EVALUATION TEAM

Andrew LaManque (Team Leader)	Administration	Instruction
Vinita Bali	Administration	International Programs
Rachelle Campbell	Faculty	Radiologic Technology
Nazy Galoyan	Administration	Enrollment Services
Juston Glass	Adjunct	Business
Art Hand	Classified	Library
Marietta Harris	Administration	Human Resources
Joni Hayes	Administration	District Finance
Kate Jordahl	Faculty	Fine Arts
Carla Maitland	Classified	District Finance
Mike Mohebbi	Classified	Finance
Paula Norsell	Confidential	Chancellor
Kathy Perino	Faculty	Math
Justin Schultz	Classified	Instruction
Karen Smith	Classified	Library
Paul Starer	Administration	Language Arts



Pictures of members of the evaluation team being recognized by the accreditation visiting team chair at the “exit interview”.

Special shout-out to the team leaders for each of the standards!

Thank you also to **Kelaiah Harris, Peter Chow, Victor Baligat**, and members of the Dining Hall staff for making the visit this week a smooth one for the visiting team. Thank you also to **Ruby Sodhi** and our new VPI **Kristy Lisle**.

And the BIGGEST “We-Owe-Him-All-The-Love-And-Loudest-Appraise” thank-you to Dr. **Andrew LaManque**, our accreditation liaison officer. **Andrew** was laser focused, was detail-oriented, and had nerves of steel.

Thank you to the small group that was able to come out last minute for a little happy hour earlier this evening. I honestly put it together to create an opportunity to present **Andrew** with a small gift of appreciation for his hard work.



“Thank Goodness It’s Over” Happy Hour at Bella Vita Italian Restaurant

I hope you have been enjoying my daily report of the accreditation visit this week. Let’s put it this

way:

THANK GOODNESS IT'S OVER (for now)!

Of Service,



Thuy

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Foothill College

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