



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

Do you remember the 21st night of September?

Dearest Foothill Colleagues,

I hope you are well and are taking time to rejuvenate this summer, especially with Friday and Monday holidays – making for a long Labor Day weekend!

It has been such fun over the summer connecting with colleagues daily via the President's Briefing. Congrats to **Catalina Rodriguez & Elias Regalado** – winners of the *Summer Games* that were part of the briefing! They each won \$62 gift card – representing 62 years of Foothill College.

It's hard to believe that we've had nearly [70 President's Briefings](#) which are archived. Remember the very first briefing on Thursday, May 12? Oh, how we have evolved since then on our ability to Zoom! I'd love to get your [feedback via this survey](#) on the briefings as I prepare for the new school year. Communication is one of the most critical elements of crisis management, and I am always thinking of ways to improve so your feedback would be valuable to me.

Your well-being is also very important to me. Check out this [article on the science of happiness](#) from Yale's Happiness Lab that I mentioned at one of the President's Briefing. As you know, we are putting in place some structures to promote mental well-being, including moratoriums on large Zoom meetings: first ten days of September & no college-wide, division-wide Zoom meetings on even Fridays of the month.

Flex 4/10 and Alternate Fridays Meeting Moratorium?



Starting Sept. 21 (Fall Quarter, pilot program)

1st & 3rd Fridays: Governance

2nd & 4th Fridays: Moratorium on college/division-wide meetings

Each employee & supervisor: discuss 4/10 flexibility (Mondays or Fridays), per week & communicate to Cabinet members



As we enjoy a respite from large Zoom meetings over the next ten days, I encourage everyone to prioritize a healthy life-work balance. Zoom has helped us to continue to serve our students and engage with each other

in our daily tasks, however, it seems that even the founder of Zoom, **Eric Yuan**, is getting '[Zoomed-out](#).' Check out his advice.

I do though wish we still had the daily briefing as I would be able to talk to you about **Chancellor Miner's** email yesterday regarding the budget and what it means for Foothill. I'll speak more to it at the Friday, September 11th President's Briefing, along with presenting my thoughts on where the cuts could occur at the Joint Councils' meeting on Monday, September 14. Until then, here's the essence of what the decision means for Foothill College: good news!

1. The district-wide budget reduction amount is now projected at \$9 million (versus \$11.5 million), which means Foothill needs to identify \$3.15 million in potential cuts (versus \$4.025 million).
2. The college is now allowed to identify one-time dollars for cuts (versus permanent cuts) which means, pending approval by the Joint Councils', we no longer need to identify positions for lay-off and program elimination.

This recent development will enable our college to "buy time" for another year and do more visioning and planning, especially as we work on equity in a more accelerated way this upcoming year!

Many of you have worked hard over the summer, and I especially want to thank members of the AC/R&R (which I affectionately call "the Joint Councils"). Their work on the guiding principles and reduction criteria will serve as the foundation in our budget planning. I also had a chance to share parts of my vision for the college with the Joint Councils last Monday. Be on the lookout in the Fall for a college-wide "Porch Talk with the College President" as I would like to do a deeper conversation with you about that vision!

As I mentioned to the Joint Councils on Monday, I am in awe by the kindness that is seemingly a hallmark of Foothill College. We are not perfect, but when the going gets tough, we come together.

Another example of that is our support for each other during the wildfires last week. I am thankful that our Foothill family remains intact (and the campus is still standing), but am also cognizant of the great loss experienced by some of our colleagues. Thank you to everyone who contributed so quickly to support **Karen**

Smith and our 15+ colleagues who were evacuated from their homes. Funds from the general GoFundMe fundraiser are being distributed to colleagues in need.



Andy Ruble, our FT ceramics instructor, also lost his family’s home in the SCU Lightning Complex fire just last week. He is physically safe, but the loss is devastating. A [GoFundMe fundraiser](#) has been set up to help Andy out with the costs to rebuild his house. The fire insurance will cover just a fraction of these costs, so I hope you could support him. The district will also send out information on how we could support colleagues with leaves-donations.

If you need to pick up items to prepare for the new school year, please see Ms. **Veronica Casas**’ email for a Wednesday, September 9 (Open Campus Day) from 8 am – 12 pm.

Our 4th Annual Governance Summit will take place on Friday, September 11th. Thank you to the faculty, staff, administrators, and students who will be serving this coming year. I would also like to thank everyone who served on the governance councils last year; it was a consequential year and our new governance structure really came into its own with the councils immediately identifying funds for the pandemic, taking the lead on the budget reduction discussions, helping the college move forward with our equity agenda, and spearheading an assessment of our governance process.

You will have seen the *Save-the Date* for College Opening Day on Friday, September 18th from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm. Adjunct faculty will receive pay for participation in College Opening Day. We have a busy morning

planned for everyone and, for the first time, a significant portion of the event will be led by our students! Be on the lookout for calendar invitation, Zoom link, and other logistical information. Division/Department meetings will be scheduled afterwards on Friday the 18th, and we have been asked to set up faculty department meetings with our counterparts at De Anza to discuss collaboration.

Some major September dates:

- Wednesday, September 9th (8 am – 12 pm): Open Campus Day for Pickups
- Wednesday, September 9th (11 am – 12 pm): Chancellor’s Briefing
- Friday, September 11th (9 am – 9:25 am): President’s Briefing
- Friday, September 11th (9 am – 12:30 pm): *4th Annual Governance Summit* (for governance councils & Admin Council)
- Monday, September 14th (9 am – 11 am): Joint Councils governance meeting
- Monday & Tuesday, September 14th & 15th (2:30 pm – 5 pm): *Summer 2020 Learning Communities Showcase*
- Tuesday, September 15th (1:30 pm): District Budget Advisory Committee
- Thursday, September 17th: District Opening Day
- Friday, September 18th (9:00 am – 12:30 pm): College Opening Day
- Monday, September 21st – First Day of the Fall Quarter! ("Do you remember the 21st night of September?")

Again, don't forget to fill out the [President’s Briefing survey](#). You can also use the QR code.



Look forward to seeing everyone at the District and College Opening Days!

Of Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thuy'.

Thuy

Thuy Thi Nguyen
President

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