

December 8, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

As we approach the close of 2008, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your numerous achievements on behalf of our students and community! Despite budget reductions and anxiety over what the future holds, we have served 3% more students over Summer and Fall of 07. We have participated in committees to help govern Foothill; develop and oversee curriculum; establish Student Learning Outcomes; direct Measure C projects; select outstanding employees; and support faculty through the tenure process. We have continued to grow intellectually and have shared our knowledge and expertise locally, regionally, and nationally. In summary, we have continued the Foothill tradition of educational excellence and opportunity for all.

Special thanks go to Stephen Anderson (ASFC President), Maureen Chenoweth (Classified Senate President), and Dolores Davison (Academic Senate President). They are knowledgeable and articulate spokespersons for their respective constituencies and their advice and perspectives have proved invaluable. Their advocacy is imbued with a sense of collaboration and civility, thereby creating an environment for genuine dialogue.

I would also like to thank our three colleagues who served as interim administrators for Fall 07. The administrative learning curve over a single quarter is enormous, but Mark Anderson (Interim Dean of Fine Arts), Duncan Graham (Interim Vice President of Instruction and Institutional Research), and Phyllis Spragge (Interim Dean of Biological and Health Sciences) showed how well that learning curve can be mastered when you have the right people. Bravi, for jobs well done!

I'd like to share an article from the December 4, 2008 issue of *SFGate* that I find very intriguing and instructive about Bhutan and its commitment to Gross National Happiness (GNH). Because morale can suffer greatly during fiscal crises, I believe we need to be intentional about the emotional well-being of our colleagues in these challenging times. I believe there is a place for a Gross College Happiness (GCH) metric in our Educational Master Plan and the following excerpt gives you a sense of how seriously economists are viewing "happiness."

*Gross National Happiness is an approach to development unique to Bhutan. While conventional development stresses economic growth as the ultimate objective, GNH is based on the premise that true development takes place only when material and spiritual development occur side by side. For GNH to grow, government must concentrate on four key areas:*

- *Promotion of equitable and sustainable socio-economic development*
- *Preservation and promotion of cultural values*
- *Conservation of the environment*
- *Good government*

*In a bid to popularize the concept internationally, the Bhutanese government is devising a GNH index that is expected to be ready as early as the end of the year. Unlike the gross domestic product index, however, a GNH index measures the quality of life based on 72 standards.*

*"We've been chasing gross domestic product for decades, and now societies are starting to say we need to look beyond GDP and start measuring well-being," said Jon Hall, a project leader at the Paris-based Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.*

For the complete article, visit:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/12/03/MN3C14CTN5.DTL>

In closing, let me wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season and an even brighter new year!

Warmest regards,

***Judy***

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