



# ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

April 28, 2021 | 2:30 – 4:30 pm | via Zoom

## LPC Mission Statement

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

## LPC Planning Priorities

- ❖ Implement the integration of all ACCJC standards throughout campus structure and processes.
- ❖ Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.
- ❖ Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.
- ❖ Coordinate resources and provide professional development for effective online instruction and remote delivery of student support services and college processes to advance equitable student outcomes.

## Academic Senate

Quorum: 11

### **Non-Voting Members:**

President: Sarah Thompson  
Past President: Melissa Korber  
Student Government: Saba Salehifar,  
Frank Polanco  
Admin.: Rifka Several

### **Voting Members:**

Vice President: Craig Kutil  
Secretary: Collin Thormoto  
Treasurer: Ashley Young  
BSSL: Robin Roy, Tracey Coleman  
A & H: John Kelly, Catherine Suarez,  
Natalie Kellner, Catherine Eagan  
STEM: Alain Olavarrieta, Carlos Moreno,  
Jeffrey Weichert, Segal Boaz  
PATH: Sebastian Wong, Scott Miner  
Student Services: Christina Lee, Jill  
Oliveira  
Faculty Association: Heike Gecox  
Part Time Representatives: Jeff Judd, Erin  
DeBakcsy

## 1.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (S. Thompson)

1.1 Call to Order/Establish Quorum: Meeting called to order at 2:32 pm.

1.2 Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda: moved/seconded/approved

1.3 Approval of Minutes: April 14, 2021: Motion to approve minutes: moved/seconded/approved

1.4 Public Comments (5 minutes): This time is reserved for members of the public to address the Academic Senate. Please limit comments to five minutes. In accordance with the Brown Act, the Academic Senate cannot act on these items. NONE

## 2.0 ACTION ITEMS (S. Thompson)

2.1 New Marketing Certificate (Drew Patterson): Craig/Articulation and College Council have reviewed. Motion to approve: moved/seconded/approved

## 3.0 CONSENT ITEMS (S. Thompson) None

## 4.0 REPORTS

4.1 CTE - (Melissa Korber): They are getting ready to meet as a regular committee (date and time to be set). Please recruit a CTE faculty member from each division. If you are applying for Perkins funds, the applications are due May 20. At College Council, Sarah advocated for CTE to become a member of that council.

4.2 UndocuAlly (Alain Olavarrieta): None

4.3 SLO Committee – (Ann Hight): It was a busy academic year. A new SLO handbook is published and on the website.

4.4 Education Master Plan Updates – (Rajinder Samra): None

4.5 DE Committee – (Robert August): At a recent meeting a presentation was made regarding Canvas accessibility. It will be

implemented in the Fall. They updated DE accessibility guidelines:

[http://www.laspositascollege.edu/onlinelearning/assets/docs/de\\_accessibility\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/onlinelearning/assets/docs/de_accessibility_guidelines.pdf)

Division questions about FERPA and multiple courses in a shell. These are being worked on.

- 4.6 Faculty Hiring Prioritization – (Heike Gecox): They are in the process of updating the form, which will be out mid-May for distribution.
- 4.7 Student Senate – (Saba Salehifar, Frank Polanco): None
- 4.8 Accreditation Steering Committee – (Kristina Whalen): None
- 4.9 Technology Committee - (Meghan Swanson-Garoupa): None
- 4.10 District Technology Committee – (Bill Komanetsky): None
- 4.11 Treasurer - (Ashley Young): No additional funds have been spent.
- 4.12 President- (Sarah Thompson): The district auditing option committee has met twice. Two colleges that have this option have shared their experiences, including A & R issues. They were not doing this for fiscal benefits so did not have this data. Their primary goal is what is best for students. Our audit option is more expansive. Information gathering continues and the recommendation to the district will be this Fall.

The Academic Senate awards subcommittee will meet Friday.

## **5.0 OLD BUSINESS (S. Thompson)**

- 5.1 COVID, Fall 2021 and Return to Campus Plans: One issue that has changed since our last meeting: CSUs and UCs intend to go face to face this fall, including a faculty, staff and student mandate for vaccines. We asked district about this and discussed it at College Council. Community colleges have not issued this mandate. FA is meeting this afternoon with the district on this item.

What recommendations does the Academic Senate have for the return? The safest option is to require vaccines; however, we need to focus on access and retention. An on-campus vaccine center would help implement more vaccines.

Dr. Foster: From Chancellor Oakley: "Many of you saw the news that in Fall 2021, UCs and CSUs plan to make the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for students and staff. This will be conditioned upon full approval of one or more vaccines by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as adequate availability of the fully approved vaccines. Yesterday, my office sent out the attached statement in response to the UC/CSU action. We are encouraging all students, staff and faculty to be vaccinated. The Office of General Counsel is developing guidance on mandating vaccinations for districts. As you are aware, neither the Chancellor's Office nor the Board of Governors can mandate vaccinations. That is the purview of districts. However, we want to use the UC/CSU action along with the guidance being developed to strongly encourage districts to follow a similar vaccine mandate. I am also encouraging the Governor's Office to include vaccine mandate in their guidance for higher education."

We will be getting legal guidance on vaccine mandates. Part of the discussion is "who do we serve?" Students, employees, communities? Question about religious or personal reasons for not being vaccinated. John spoke

to the mandate, which has been discussed in the theater dept., tied to a vaccination center on campus, with options for online classes for those who do not wish to be vaccinated.

Christina: Students planning to access UC campuses for the Fall will need to update their immunization documentation on file to indicate vaccination or an approved exception or medical exemption prior to coming on campus. She also spoke in favor of on-campus vaccinations.

Sarah added that those UC/CSU students not being vaccinated are required to have regular Covid tests.

Craig agrees with vaccinations required for on-campus attendance. Tracey reported students being concerned about the vaccine's approval still in the "emergency" category. Perhaps we would need the district to collaborate with student and faculty groups and health centers to develop an education program that addresses people's concerns. We should ask the Student Senate their opinion; Sarah will contact Saba on the vaccine issue.

*This will be an action item for the next meeting*, so Sarah can bring it to the board meeting; a simple statement such as "We would like to adopt a vaccine protocol similar to that of the CSUs and UCs." This will be developed and brought to the next meeting for a vote.

5.2 Elections (Collin Thormoto, Ashley Young): We do not have a candidate for treasurer. Ashley cannot be on the elections committee and run for treasurer. Christina will take Ashley's place on the elections committee, so Ashley can be the candidate. Ashley will provide the candidate statements before leaving the committee.

5.3 Classified Appreciation Event (Ashley Young): The plans are going well, everyone has been assigned. Dr. Foster's office has helped cover the cost of the appreciation gifts. The setup is in 1620B; unlocked when the reception desk is open. Let your divisions know how much the Academic Senate appreciates their input into this event. If you want to give LPC wines, contact David Everett. This is a great way to show classified professionals how much they are appreciated. This appreciation plan can be continued in the future instead of just holding an in-person event, which not everyone can attend.

## **6.0 NEW BUSINESS (S. Thompson)**

6.1 16 Week Semester (Dave Wagner and Kisha Quesada Turner): These presenters have conducted research and discussions.

Benefits include:

- Long-term savings on campus operations
- Shorter semesters allow for winter intersessions which could appeal to students and faculty
- Many adjunct professors are younger and more diverse; the intersession would allow them to teach more classes
- Regarding declining enrollments; are students going to other campuses because of shorter semesters? We could market the shorter semesters as a benefit for LPC registration
- Dave is contacted by students who contact him after the semester has started

- Equity as a campus goal: due to high rates of living costs students need more time to work to afford to live. Students lose 12.5% of income potential due to longer semesters.
- Burn out: both students and faculty
- Even with STEM courses, Ohlone and DVC are doing these in 16 weeks

Question: the calendar is set by the FA and district. The Academic Senate would make the recommendation to the FA for academic and student success reasons for a change in the calendar.

Other issues to explore: the impact of shortening the semester on our SCFF metrics (enrollment). Would the 16-week semester increase enrollments? Data shows a slight bump. We need data on student success. Are there financial aid ramifications? Rajinder: the state has not been discussing this. We used to be on the quarter system, which he liked when he was a student. Scenarios need to be developed regarding the interim and new space assignments.

Chabot has established an exploratory committee already.

Establishing a LPC exploratory committee to develop a district recommendation, including STEM (especially labs), languages and counseling representation: Sarah will discuss this with Kristina Whalen. Sarah will bring back the suggestions for Academic Senate to approve. Classified Professional and Student Senates would need representation, also the calendar committee, A & R and IT.

It will evolve to a district-wide exploration, as there is capital outlay and budget implications to this model.

6.2 Curriculum Committee Charge Revision (attachments): Craig reviewed the changes made generally for better clarification and including updates and the new credit for prior learning. *This will be an action item for the next meeting.*

6.2 Program Review Shared Governance Worksheet (Nadiyah Taylor): tabled from last meeting. Craig shared the new additions on the worksheet, better reflecting their activities. *This will be an action item for the next meeting.*

6.3 Reassigned Time Groupings – Subcommittee: tabled from last meeting. Reassigned time is a contractual process (a committee of FA, 2 administrators and Academic Senate review the requests). There is no district indication that the CAH will be cut. It would be helpful for discipline representatives to be involved in the process. What disciplines have similar levels of work so the distribution of CAH is equitable? This subcommittee should be in place in the Fall so the CAH assignments can be better informed from the disciplines, and can develop objective metrics for the requests. The Academic Senate approves moving forward with establishing this subcommittee.

6.4 New Budget Allocation Model: tabled from last meeting. There are discrepancies between Chabot and LPC on the projected numbers. “Student need” according to the new definition is higher at Chabot; we have questions about student success ratings. LPC loses more dollar-wise (4.5 million projected). This coming year we will have CARES funds. 2023 is the truly crucial year.

## **7.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER**

### **7.1 Announcements:**

- Ashley shared the Classified appreciation cards.
- Literary Arts Festival on May 8! Register in advance...tell your students!  
<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/literary-festival/>

7.2 Meetings: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4:40 pm, via Zoom; next meeting May 12

7.3 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: moved/seconded/approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm

*Public Notice – Nondiscrimination: Las Positas College does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation color or disability in any of its programs or activities. Las Positas College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Upon request, this publication will be made available in alternate formats.*