

LaGuardia Community College  
**Minutes of the College Senate Meeting**  
April 26, 2017  
E-242

**Present and Voting:**

Anthony Pappas (Alumni), Loretta Capuano-Vella (At-Large Instructional Staff), Rebekah Johnson (At-Large Instructional Staff), Pablo Avila (At-Large Instructional Staff), Reem Jaafar (At-Large Instructional Staff), Christopher Carrozza (At-Large Instructional Staff-Alternate), Syed Ali Kazmi (Student-Alternate), Naomi Villalba (Student-Alternate), Marzia Akhtar (Student), Vanshika Sharma (Student), Maisha Sultana (Student), Hreedoy Khandakar (Student), Richard Rojas (Student), Arjina Khanom (Student), Leslie Scamacca (Business & Technology), Jean Buckley-Lockhart (Counseling), Patricia Sokolski (Academic Affairs), Evelyn Lowmark (Division of Administration), Eneida Rivas (Institutional Advancement), Nancy Santangelo (Division of Student Affairs), Monika Ekiert (Education & Language Acquisition), Cristy Bruns (English), Francine Egger-Sider (Faculty Council), William Fulton (Humanities), Diane Gordon-Conyers (Library), Marina Nechayeva (MEC), Ana Lucia Fuentes (Natural Sciences), Henry Derenoncourt (Non-Instructional), Maria Cook (President's Office), Jill Kehoe (Social Science-Alternate).

Meeting called to order at 2:20PM by Patricia Sokolski, Chairperson.

**I. Chair's Report**

Chairperson Sokolski announced that the final reporting on the Senate's work will take place at the last session in Spring 1. The Executive Committee plans to invite President Mellow.

**II. Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2017**

Senator Pappas made the motion to approve the minutes from March 22, 2017, seconded by Senator Fuentes.

- i. Yea-unanimous
- ii. Minutes from March 22, 2017-Approved

**III. Middle States Report**

Dr. Joanne Pierre-Louis updated the Senate on the Periodic Review Report that the committee under her leadership is drafting, with a deadline of June 1, 2017. The Report is a follow-up on a 2012 self-study undertaken by LaGuardia, a major accreditation event. The Report is an approximately 50-page document and the process does not require a site visit from Middle States. Upon submission of the report, the Middle States will review it and provide feedback (by November 1, 2017). Dr. Pierre-Louis highlighted the findings of the Report concerning leadership and governance (i.e. the Senate). She emphasized that the recommendations made by

the Middle States in 2012 were mostly addressed by now; of those, some were no longer relevant and the committee explained what changed in college's life to render them not relevant.

Some implications from the report included "challenges on the horizon," requiring that the college think strategically. They are:

- projected decline in admissions
- limits in physical space
- financial constraints
- faculty support
- political landscape & domestic policies

#### IV. Academic Standing Committee

Dr. Vera Albrecht representing ASC presented the proposed changes to the College Catalogue concerning who can attend classes and the audit grade.

ASC recommends the addition of the phrase, "Students must be actively registered in classes to attend" on page 203, and another addition on page 205 of the following: "LaGuardia does not currently offer an audit grade."

A discussion followed whether there should be an addition on page 203 stating that LaGuardia does not currently permit the auditing of classes. The issue will be taken up by ASC.

#### V. 2017-2018 Academic Calendar

Chairperson Sokolski reminded the Senate that the calendar for the next academic year once again does away with the Reading Day in Session I of the Spring semester in order to accommodate graduation. It was mentioned that Guttman and Kingsborough are on the same calendar as LaGuardia and hold their graduations after the finals.

Senator Capuano-Vella made a motion, seconded by Senator Pappas, that the academic calendar 2017-2018 has graduation after the finals.

- i. Yea- unanimous
- ii. Motion-Approved

Senator Kehoe expressed concern about the less than 24 hours turnaround between the last day of the finals and the due date for grade submission.

## VI. Advising 2.0 and Strategic Plan

Associate Provost Bret Eynon reported on the college's efforts to advance advisement in the academic year 2016-2017. Advisement 2.0 involved three departments piloting a tier-based approach to advising: student groups are tiered, based on GPA and remedial needs, with students with greater needs (Tier 3 and Tier 4) receiving targeted advising by faculty and advisors.

Provost Eynon also presented the College's Strategic Plan listing 5 priorities for the college:

- 1) Strengthen **Advisement, First Year Experience** and other **Alignment** initiatives
- 2) Enhance the use of **Digital Technology to support student learning and success**
- 3) Engage LaGuardia's **Outcomes Assessment** process to **improve student learning**
- 4) Strengthen the connection between College learning experiences and the **evolving labor market**
- 5) **Advance Global Learning** – prepare students to address our signature competency and develop as global citizens

Assistant Provost Eynon invited a Senate representative to serve as a PMP liaison on the committee responsible for strategic planning and reporting.

## VII. Old Business

None

## VIII. New Business

Senator Rivas announced that the 2017 graduation ceremony will take place at Barclays Center and that to pass through security staff and faculty need to get tickets (online).

Senator Fulton expressed concern about the lack of competitive pricing on textbooks in the campus bookstore.

Senator Pappas announced that the Alumni Association is holding a "Spring Cleaning" sale as a fundraiser in May. Date TBA. The Alumni are looking for donations of used books, CD's, DVD's, and so on, to sell. Thanks go to Chairperson Sokolski who already donated 3 boxes of books.

The Alumni Associations is also scheduling an Atlantic City bus trip for either May or June, again date TBA. Finally, they are planning a Mets game for either August or September, Date TBA. Further details and dates will be sent out soon, so check your emails for more details.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Senator Rivas, seconded by Senator Johnson. Senate adjourned at 4:16pm

Respectfully submitted,

Monika Ekiert  
ELA Senator  
For Andre Keeton  
College Senate Secretary