

LaGuardia Community College  
**Agenda for the College Senate Meeting**  
2:15-4:30 pm (Zoom)

**Present and Voting**

Allie Brashears (Natural Sciences), Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Counseling), Cindy Busch (Division of Institutional Advancement), Loretta Capuano-Vella (Enrollment Management), Erika Correa (Adult & Continuing Education), Thomas Gleisner (At-Large Adjunct), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), William (Joonyoung) Hur (Student), Sumanth Inukonda (Humanities), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Jayashree Kamble (At-Large Instructional), Jill Kehoe (Social Sciences), Theresia Litvay-Sardou (Division of Information Technology), Evelyn Lowmark (Division of Administration), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Eneida Rivas (At-Large Instructional Staff), Tara Scales (Health Sciences), Leslie Scamacca (Business and Technology), Patricia Sokolski (Division of Academic Affairs), Sandra Sze (MEC), Charis Victory (Division of Student Affairs),

**Present Non-Voting**

Alex Abramov, Kenneth Adams, Seurette Bazalais, Fay Butler, San San Chow, J. Elizabeth Clark, Catherine Cortes, Douglas DiCarlo, Sonya Evariste, Crystal Franklin, Janet Gonzalez, Vanessa Gonzalez, Madison Goode, Richa Gupta, Sunil Gupta, Nick Hetherington, Albert Jimenez, Robert Jaffe, Charles Keyes, Christopher McHale, Wendy Nicholson, Karen Pinckney, Maritza Pritsos, Ellen Quish, Starla Repka, Allana Simelov, Akiana Smith, Juneau Srimak, Derek Stadler

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:21pm by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

**II. Approval of Minutes from the May 26, 2021 Meeting**

Chairperson Bruns asked if there were any modifications to the May 26, 2021 minutes. The minutes were approved with minor revisions.

**III. Parliamentarian's Review of Senate Voting Procedure**

Parliamentarian Scamacca reviewed the Senate's voting procedure for the new Senators and candidates in attendance. The Senate Parliamentarian will conduct tutorials throughout the year to educate Senators and Senate visitors and reinforce proper governance procedures. Of note, Governor Hochul signed legislation extending virtual access to public meetings under New York State's Open Meetings Law.

**II. Invitation of Wendy M. Nicholson, LaGuardia Community College's First Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Executive Director Nicholson discussed her vision for LaGuardia and her intent to create and maintain an environment supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion. She would like to emphasize campus-wide civility during communication and provision of services. Ad-Hoc IT Advisory Committee Chairperson Clark suggested that a guide could aid committee chairs and other leadership positions with exercising and fostering civil communication practices.

Senator Sokolski raised the issue of parity with regard to how the LaGuardia calendar recognizes holidays. While Executive Director Nicholson does not have the power to designate any observance an official CUNY holiday, she will look at the issue further and consult with DEI-focused bodies at other CUNY colleges. In the meantime, she will continue to email a list of monthly observances to the college community to mark significant dates and affinity months.

### **III. Invitation of President Kenneth Adams**

President Adams spoke about the difficulties the college is facing during the Fall 2021 semester with regard to vaccination rates and uploading vaccination documentation. LaGuardia is now abiding by the new CUNY Central extended deadlines. Students attending in-person and hybrid classes for the Fall 2021 semester must provide vaccination documentation by October 7, 2021 and be fully vaccinated by October 21, 2021. Senator Kehoe requested further guidance for Program Directors in creating schedules for Spring 2022 that both reflect CUNY Central's 70% in-person/30% online mandate and ensure parity across full-time and adjunct instructors. President Adams noted that he would be attending a meeting next week at CUNY Central with other CUNY Presidents and hoped he would receive additional guidance. He will be participating in a Virtual Town Hall on Friday October 8, 2021 at 10am. Questions may be submitted during the meeting using the Zoom chat feature or may be submitted in advance to Faculty Council Chairperson Rochell Isaac.

### **IV. Chair's Report**

Chairperson Bruns reminded the Senate of the new leadership opportunities that will be available during the upcoming academic year including seats on the Executive Committee. Positions on the Executive Committee are for one year and are open to full Senators. The October 13, 2021 meeting is the first meeting of the 2021-22 Senate session. Elections for leadership positions will be held at the October 27, 2021 meeting. Faculty, staff, and students will also elect chairs for their committees at their respective meetings.

Chairperson Bruns presented the Resolution on the Nature of Shared Governance at the College of Staten Island (CSI). The CSI's governance body is concerned that despite a likely vote rejecting changes to the governance plan initiated by the college's president, he may attempt to override the rejection and implement said changes. The revised governance plan was developed without governance consultation and endows the president with unilateral control of curriculum, contradictory to the standard practice of shared governance. CUNY shared governance bodies are in support of this resolution. Meeting participants were encouraged to send letters of support to the Board of Trustees. Senator Sokolski suggested that support from CUNY college presidents would also be powerful. Ad-Hoc History Committee Co-Chairperson Keyes suggested that open Board of Trustees meetings for each borough can be a place to voice support as well.

At the October 13, 2021 meeting, Chairperson Bruns will discuss the development of a Senate priority list. While constituency committees typically develop wish lists to guide their work for the year, Chairperson Bruns felt it was important for the Senate body as a

whole to participate in a similar exercise. One such Senate priority for the year, will be developing habits for both Senators and Alternate Senators to facilitate college-wide communication.

Chairperson Bruns requested feedback regarding pressing issues confronting LaGuardia in the upcoming year that should be prioritized by the Senate. Senators contributed the following items:

- CUNY's 70/30 mandate for Spring 2022 and its implication for full-time and adjunct course assignment
- Designation of course caps without faculty consideration despite curriculum being the purview of faculty
- Ensuring early and consistent student notification of course modalities
- Health and safety for all constituencies on campus
- Equity with regard to working conditions on campus
- Fair consideration of requests for working remotely
- Promotion of shared governance including recruitment of more Senate applicants
- Increased transparency regarding CUNY COVID policies and deadlines
- Efforts to build academic freedom
- Textbook costs
- Faculty difficulties with online instruction
- Student difficulties with managing multiple online platforms
- Encouraging use of student federal work study

## **V. Committee**

### **a. Standing Committees**

- i. Committee on Committees (Charis Victory, Chair)  
Chairperson Victory reminded Senate members to check their emails for upcoming messages regarding committee membership and leadership needs.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Debra Engel, Chair)  
Nothing to report.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Janet Gonzalez, Chair)  
Chairperson Gonzalez reported that the Academic Standing Committee would be meeting with Interim Associate Dean for Enrollment Gail Baksh-Jarrett in order to discuss the possibility of instating a permanent No Credit policy. The committee will use data regarding previous use of the No Credit policy from Derwent Dawkins of the Registrar's Office to guide their discussion. They will also consider the implications a No Credit policy would have on student financial aid.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Eneida Rivas, Chair)  
Nothing to report.

- v. The Committee of Faculty (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)  
Chairperson Scamacca noted that the Committee of Faculty would be meeting following the Senate session to tackle a lengthy agenda.
- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Deborah McMillan-Coddington and Christopher McHale, Co-Chairs)  
Nothing to report.
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Interim Chair)  
Interim Chairperson Sokolski reported that the Budget and Finance Committee is working toward improving transparency and communication from administration regarding the use of funds across the college. Senators agreed that budget and finance decisions should be made public and conveyed in a way to foster understanding for those who are unfamiliar with budget and finance.
- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Erika Correa and Eneida Rivas, Co-Chairs)  
Co-Chairpersons Correa and Rivas will lead a meet and greet for the Committee of Staff and Faculty immediately following the Senate session.
- ix. The Committee of Students (Chair Vacant)
- x. The Committee on Elections (Seurette Bazalais, Chair)  
Online elections will commence next week for select Senator positions. Only one individual submitted a statement of candidacy for the At-Large Senator position so there will be no election. There are also not enough student candidates for an election. The by-laws will be consulted, but all student candidates may be accepted as Senators for the year.
- xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)  
See Chair's report.
- xii. Transfer Committee (Ana-Lucia Fuentes and Jayashree Kamble, Co-Chairs)  
Co-Chairperson Kamble reported that the Transfer Committee will meet Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup> and will go through the Committee on Committees to recruit new members.
- xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Nicolle Fernandes and Rebekah Johnson, Co-Chairs)  
Co-Chairperson Johnson reported that the FIJCN Committee will meet on Friday October 8<sup>th</sup>. They intend to collaborate with those leading and participating in the Food Insecurity, Inequality, and Justice CTL seminar.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. Governance Plan Revision Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)  
Chairperson Scamacca indicated that the revised Governance Plan will hopefully be ready for discussion at the March 2022 Senate meeting. Voting can then take place at the April and May 2022 meetings.
- ii. IT Advisory Committee (J. Elizabeth Clark, Chair)  
Chairperson Clark reported that the IT Advisory Committee had its first meeting and intends to continue to meet monthly. They have a full agenda and will continue to make progress on its list of priorities from last semester.
- iii. Senate History Committee (Loretta Capuano-Vella and Charles Keyes, Co-Chairs)  
Nothing to report.

c. Non-Senate Committees

- i. Fall Return to Campus Committee (Jayashree Kamble, Senate Representative)  
Senator Kamble indicated that updates regarding the return to campus will continue to be communicated from CUNY Central and President Adams.
- ii. Enrollment Management Planning Group (Jill Kehoe, Senate Representative)  
Nothing to report.
- iii. SIRS Committee (Allie Brashears, Senate Representative)  
Chairperson Brashears reported that the new student assessment instrument will be used in Spring 2022. Use in Fall 2021 was impossible due to technological limitations.
- iv. Advising Council (Jean Buckley Lockhart, Senate Representative)  
Senator Buckley Lockhart informed the Senate that the PAR registration system would not be employed in Spring 2022. The Advising Council is looking forward to developing Advisement 3.0. Senator Buckley Lockhart will be looking for advisement related feedback to bring to the council.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

**VII. New Business**

**VIII. Announcements**

**IX. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Rivas. This was seconded by Senator Victory. The meeting was adjourned at 4:32pm.

**Next Meeting:** October 13, 2021

