

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate
Meeting: February 10, 2021
(Zoom Meeting) 2:15-4:30pm

Present and Voting

Shawn Blackman (Student), Allie Brashears (Natural Sciences), Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Counseling), Fay Butler (At-Large Instructional Staff), Loretta Capuano Vela (At-Large Instructional Staff), Kerlin Chen (Student), Gabriela Concepcion (Student), Erika Correa (Adult & Continuing Education), Eva Espinoza (Student), Crystal Franklin (President's Office), Carlos Freire (Division of Institutional Advancement), Bukurie Gjoci (MEC), Thomas Gleisner (At-Large Adjunct), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), Lenaysia Hunter (Student), William (Joonyoung) Hur (Student), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), Ana Jara (Student), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Jayashree Kamble (At-Large Instructional), Jill Kehoe (Social Sciences), Evelyn Lowmark (Division of Administration), Lenore McShane (Non-Instructional Staff), Shoma Nahar (Student), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Yasmeen Qureshi (Student), Eneida Rivas (At-Large Instructional Staff), Tara Scales (Health Sciences), Leslie Scamacca (Business and Technology), Patricia Sokolski (Division of Academic Affairs), Dana Trusso (Humanities), Charis Victory (Division of Student Affairs)

Present Non-Voting

J. Elizabeth Clark, Douglas DiCarlo, Debra Engel, Christopher McHale, Cheryl McKenzie, Margaret O'Sullivan, Karen Pinckney, Alexandra Rojas

Guests and Visitors (non-voting)

President Kenneth Adams, Derwent Dawkins, Shahir Erfan, Janet Gonzalez, Sunil Gupta, Robert Jaffe

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:16pm by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2021

Chairperson Bruns asked if there were any modifications to the January 13, 2021 minutes. Senator Butler noted that her position as an At-Large Instructional Staff Senator was incorrectly reported. Chairperson Bruns added that Senator Franklin was mistakenly left off the list of Senators present at the meeting. With the aforementioned modifications, the minutes were approved.

III. Vote on Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from January 21, 2021

A motion to approve the curriculum committee consent calendar items from January 21, 2021 was made by Senator Scales. This was seconded by Senator Rivas. **Vote: Aye-27, Nay-0, Abstain-0.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from January 21, 2021 were approved.

IV. Invitation of President Kenneth Adams and VP of Administration and Finance Shahir Erfan: Discussion of Capital Projects

President Adams gave the Senate an explanation of LaGuardia's capital budget including capital project priorities, funding types, processes, and timelines. VP Erfan reviewed the progress and costs of the current projects in the construction phase (C Building façade replacement, C Building new heating system, Shenker Hall boiler replacement, E Building roof replacement) and the current projects in the design phase with partial funding (Library phase 2 renovation, Natural Science Lab renovations, C Building infrastructure upgrade, Business and Entrepreneurial Career Center, Shenker Hall new fire alarm system, renovation of Poolside Café).

V. Invitation of Burhan Siddiqui, Registrar Director: Vote on the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar

Alex Rojas and Janet Gonzalez of the Academic Standing Committee and Derwent Dawkins of the Registrar's Office (standing in for Burhan Siddiqui), were present to answer any questions about the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar and its approval by the Academic Standing Committee. Senator Isaac motioned to accept the recommendation of the Academic Standing Committee to approve the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar. It was seconded by Senator Kamble. Chairperson Bruns explained that the scheduling of Opening Sessions needed to work around both Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah holidays. Senator Rivas questioned why Commencement was scheduled on Monday June 20th, when in previous years it was always scheduled on a Tuesday or Thursday. Derwent Dawkins pointed out that with Commencement now taking place after final exams and the tight time frame in between Spring I and Spring II, a Monday date worked best. **Vote: Aye-30, Nay-0, Abstain-0.** The motion to accept the recommendation of the Academic Standing Committee to approve the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar passed unanimously.

VI. Chair's Report

Attendance

Chairperson Bruns asked those who arrive to the Senate meeting after roll call to send a private message to Senator Scamacca so that she can make note of their attendance. She added that Senators should make sure their presence or absence is correctly noted when reviewing the draft minutes of the previous Senate meeting. This is especially important for Student Senators as attendance at meetings impacts their stipend.

P/NC Credit Policy

Administration requested that the Academic Standing Committee examine whether a P/NC policy would be appropriate for Spring 2021 semester. CUNY offered a CR/NC policy in Spring 2020 and Fall 2020, but it is not being extended. Moving forward, each campus can make an individual policy if they wish. Academic Standing Committee Chair Alex Rojas presented the committee's decision to take no action on the new policy. Sixteen members reviewed the P/NC option and relevant data and decided that was the best course of action for LaGuardia students. The Academic Chairs also decided to take no action on the new policy.

Senator Franklin moved for President Adams to consider a stand-alone NC policy for Spring 2021. This was seconded by Senator Trusso. Reflecting the appropriate role of the Academic Standing Committee Senator Sokolski moved to amend the previous motion to request the Academic Standing Committee to consider the stand-alone NC policy for Spring 2021. This was seconded by Senator Isaac. Senator Pappas moved to amend the previous motion to request the Academic Standing Committee to consider the stand-alone NC policy for Spring 2021 with participation from students. This was seconded by Senator Victory. Senator Capuano Vela questioned whether students would advocate for the implementation of a P/NC policy resulting in its adoption late in the semester, much like what transpired in Fall I 2020. President Adams reassured the Senate that Spring 2021 is different than Fall 2020 as CUNY has already made its decision regarding the policy. He would like students to know at the start of Spring what the definitive situation is with regard to the grading policy. President Adams added that discussions with the Student Government Association focused on the negative consequences of P/NC grades for transfer and whether a cap on the number of times the P/NC option could be exercised was appropriate. **Vote: Aye: 27, Nay: 3, Abstain: 3.** Chairperson Bruns charged the Academic Standing Committee to look at a stand-alone no credit policy for Spring 2021 including whether there should be a cap, how to handle WUs, and whether grades can be appealable. Committee on Committees Chair Victory was tasked with finding students to participate in the Academic Standing Committee's deliberation and vote.

Student Affairs Staffing Changes

Chairperson Bruns updated the Senate that the Student Affairs staffing changes discussed at the January 13, 2021 Senate meeting are still under consideration.

President Adams's Senate Visits

Chairperson Bruns reported that President Adams accepted our suggested calendar. He will attend the March 10th meeting of the Committee of HEO/Alumni/Civil Service, the April 7th meeting of the Committee of Faculty and Faculty Council, the May 5th meeting of the Committee of Students, and the May 26th meeting of the full Senate.

Senate Participation on College Committees

Senator Buckley Lockhart will represent the Senate on the Advising Council in an effort to improve transparency and communication between the council and the college.

Senator Kehoe will represent the Senate on the Enrollment Solutions Working Group charged with exploring potential initiatives designed to improve enrollment and retention at the college.

Senator Brashears represents the Senate on the newly formed SIRS Committee tasked with investigating potential replacements for the currently used student evaluation instrument.

Senator Kamble represents the Senate on the Fall Reopening Committee. She disseminated a survey to Senate members asking for feedback regarding on-campus

safety procedures, the results of which she will relay to the committee. The Fall Reopening Committee will likely have a web presence to detail any updates.

VII. Vote on the Proposed IT Advisory Committee

Chairperson Bruns explained that there was previously a committee tasked with assessing the college's technological needs. As CARES Act funding is now available to be spent on COVID-related costs including technology purchases, the resurrection of this committee may be appropriate. Senator Rivas made a motion to form an Ad Hoc IT Advisory Committee. It was seconded by Senator Kehoe. **Vote: Aye-30, Nay-0, Abstain-0.** Chairperson Bruns recommended that J. Elizabeth Clark, the previous Chair of the committee, once again take on the leadership role. She accepted. The Committee on Committees under Chair Victory will be responsible for recruiting members for the committee including both faculty and staff.

VIII. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee

Co-Chair Johnson reviewed the committee's membership, mission statement, and goals. Senator Lowmark motioned to make the Senate Committee on Food Insecurity Justice and Community Need a standing committee of the Senate. It was seconded by Senator Pappas. **Vote: Aye-32, Nay-0, Abstain-0.**

IX. Overview of the LaGuardia 50th Anniversary Committee

Chairperson Bruns postponed the discussion until the March Senate meeting.

X. Senate Engagement with Large Constituencies

Chairperson Bruns received various recommendations for improving communication with large constituencies. Suggestions included emails, class chats, regular reports at meetings, improving the Senate website, and creating a suggestion box. Chairperson Bruns instructed Senators to look at the full list of recommendations she emailed out earlier in the week.

XI. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Committee on Committees (Charis Victory, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Debra Engel, Chair)
Chairperson Engel reported that two advisors were appointed to attend Curriculum Committee meetings. The Committee is trying to streamline the template for curriculum framework revisions.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Alexandra Rojas, Chair)
Update included in Chair's Report's discussion of the P/NC grade policy.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Eneida Rivas, Chair)
Nothing to report.

- v. The Committee of Faculty (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)
Chairperson Scamacca reported that the Committee of Faculty is making progress on its wish list and in the creation of potential avenues for professional development.
- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Deborah McMillan-Coddington and Christopher McHale, Co-Chairs)
Co-chairperson McHale recounted the three in service training events hosted by the Committee on Professional Development: Inclusive Pedagogy in Distance Learning (1/12/2021); Individual Taxes 101 (1/26/2021); and Autoimmune Diseases: When the Body Attacks Itself (2/25/2021).
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Fay Butler, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- viii. The Committee of HEO/Alumni/Civil Service (Erika Correa and Eneida Rivas, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- ix. The Committee of Students (Justin Rodriguez, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- x. The Committee on Elections (Seurette Bazelais, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)
Update included in the Chair's Report.
- xii. Transfer Committee (Andy Kai-chun Chuang and Ana-Lucia Fuentes, Co-Chairs)
Senator Kamble announced that the Transfer Committee will host a student alumni panel on April 7th.
- xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Nicolle Fernandes and Rebekah Johnson, Co-Chairs)
Co-chairperson Johnson announced a food sustainability event on April 21st.

XII. Unfinished Business

None.

XIII. New Business

None.

XIV. Announcements

None.

XV. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Johnson. This was seconded by Senator Rivas. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42pm.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2021